



THE
MOST LAMEN-
TABLE TRAGEDIE

of Titus Andronicus.

AS IT HATH SVNDRY

*times beene plaide by the Kings
Maiesties Seruants.*



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Shakespeare, W.

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¶ The most lamentable Romaine
Tragedie of *Titus Andronicus*: As it was plaid
by the right honorable the Earle of Darbie, Earle
of Pembroke, and Earle of Suffex
their Seruants.

*Enter the Tribunes and Senatours aloft: And then enter
Saturninus and his followers at one doore, and Bassianus and his
followers, with Drum and Trumpets.*

Saturninus.

NOble Patricians, Patrons of my right,
Defend the iustice of my cause with armes.
And Countrymen my louing followers,
Plead my successiue title with your swords:
I am his first borne sonne, that was the last
That ware the Imperiall Diadem of Rome.
Then let my fathers honours liue in mee,
Nor wrong mine age with this indignitie.

Bassianus.

Romaines, friends, followers, fauourers of my right,
If euer *Bassianus* *Cæsars* sonne,
Were gracious in the eyes of royall Rome,
Keepe then this passage to the Capitoll,
And suffer not dishonour to approach,
The imperiall seat to vertue consecrate
To iustice, continence, and Nobilitie:
But let desert in pure election shine,
And Romaines fight for freedome in your choice.

A 2

Marcus

The most lamentable Tragedie

Marcus Andronicus with the Crowne.

Princes that strine by factions and by friends
Ambitionusly for Rule and Emperie,
Know that the people of Rome for whome we stand
A speciall Partie, haue by comm. on voyce,
In election for the Romaine Emperie
Chosen *Andronicus*, surnamed *Pius*,
For many good and great desert to Rome:
A nobler man, a brauer warriour,
Lives not this day within the Citty walls.
He by the Senate is acited home,
From weary warres against the barbarous Gothes,
That with his sonnes (a terror to our foes)
Hath yoakt a nation strong, traind vp in Armes.
Tenne yeares are spent since first he vndertooke
This cause of Rome, and chastised with Armes
Our enemies pride: Five times he hath returned
Bleeding to Rome, bearing his valiant sonnes
In Coffins from the field,
And now at last, laden with honours spoiles
Returns the good *Andronicus* to Rome,
Renowned thus flourishing in Armes,
Lervs intreat by honour of his name,
Whome worthily you would haue now succcede,
And in the Capitoll and Senates right,
Whome you pretend to honour and adore,
That you with draw you, and abate your strength,
Dismiss your followers, and as suiters should,
Plead your deserts in peace and humblenes.

Saturius.

How faire the Tribune speakes to calme my thoughts.

Basianus.

Marcus Andronicus, so I doe asse,

In

of *Titus Andronicus*.

In thy vprightnes and integrity,
And so I loue and honour thee and thine,
Thy noble brother *Titus* and his sonnes,
And her to whome my thoughts are humbled all,
Gracious *Lavinia*, Romes rich Ornament,
That I will heere dismisle my louing friends :
And to my fortunes and the peoples fauour,
Commit my cause in ballance to be waied. *Exit Souldiers.*

SAINTININUS.

Friends, that haue beene thus forward in my right,
I thanke you all, and heere dismisle you all,
And to the done and fauour of my Country,
Commit my selfe, my person, and the cause.
Rome be as iust and gracious vnto me,
As I am confident and kinde to thee.
Open the gates and let me in.

Basiliarus, Tribunes and me a poore Competitor.

They goe vp into the Senate house.

Enter a Captaine.

Romaines make way, the good *Andronicus*,
Patron of vertue, Romes best Champion:
Succesfull in the battailes that he fightes,
With honour and with fortune is returnd,
From where he circumscribed with his sword;
And brought to yooke the enemies of Rome.

Sound Drummes and Trumpets, and then enter two of Titus sonnes, and then two men bearing a Coffin covered with blacke, then two other sonnes, then Titus Andronicus, and then Tamora the Queene of Gothes and her two sonnes, Chiron and Demetrius, with Aron the Moore, and others, as many as can be, then set downe the Coffin, and Titus speaks.

A 3.

Titus

The most lamentable Tragedie

Titus. Haile Rome, victorious in thy mourning weeds,
 Loe as the barke that hath dischargd his fraught,
 Returnes with precious lading to the bay,
 From whence at first she wayed her anchorage:
 Commeth *Andronicus* bound with Lawrell bowes,
 To resalute his country with his teares,
 Teares of true ioy for his returne to Rome,
 Thou great defender of this Capitoll,
 Stand gracious to the rites that we intend.
 Romaines, of fine and twenty valiant sonnes,
 Halfe of the number that king *Priam* had,
 Behold the poore remains aliue and dead!
 These that suruiue, let Rome reward with loue:
 These that bring vnto their latest home,
 With buriall amongst their auncestors.
 Heere Gothes haue giuen me leaue to sheath my sword,
Titus vnkinde, and careles of thine owne,
 Why sufferst thou thy sonnes vnburied yet,
 To houer on the dreadfull shore of Stix?
 Make way to lay them by their bretheren.

They open the Tombe.

There greete in silence as the dead are wont,
 And sleepe in peace, slaine in your Countries warres:
 O sacred receptacle of my ioyes,
 Sweet Cell of vertue and Nobilitie,
 How many sonnes of mine hast thou in store,
 That thou wilt neuer render to me more?

Lucius. Giue vs the proudest prisoner of the Gothes,
 That we may hew his limbes, and on a pile
Ad manus fratrum, sacrifice his flesh:
 Before this earthy prison of their bones,
 That so the shadowes be not vnapeasd,
 Nor we disturbd with prodigies on earth.

Titus

of Titus Andronicus.

Titus. I giue him you, the noblest that suruives,
The eldest sonne of his distressed Queene.

Tamo. Stay Romaine brethren, gracious conquerer,
Victorious *Titus*, rue the teares I shed,

A mothers teares in passion for her sonne:
And if thy sonnes were euer deere to thee,
Oh thinke my sonne to be as deere to mee.
Sufficeth not that we are brought to Rome
To beautifie thy triumphs, and returne
Captiue to thee, and to thy Romaine yoke,
But must my sonnes be slaughtered in the streetes,
For valiant doings in their Countries cause?
O if to fight for king and common weale,
Were piety in'thine, it is in these:

Andronicus staine not thy tombe with blood.
Wilt thou draw neere the nature of the Gods?
Draw neere them then in being mercifull.
Sweet mercy is Nobilitie true badge,
Thrice noble *Titus* spare my first borne sonne.

Titus. Patient your selfe Madam, and pardon me.
These are their brethren, whome you Gothes beheld
Aliue and dead, and for their bretheren slaine,
Religioussly they aske a sacrifice:

To this your sonne is markt and die he must,
T'appease their groning shadowes that are gone.

Lucius. Away with him and make a fire straight,
And with our swords vpon a pile of wood,
Let's hew his limbes till they be cleane consumed:

Exit Titus sonnes with Alarbus.

Tamora. O cruell irreligious piety.

Chiron. Was euer Scythia halfe so barbarous?

Deme. Oppose not Scythia to ambitious Rome,
Alarbus goes to rest, and we suruiue,
To tremble vnder *Titus* threatning looke.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Then Madam stand resolu'd, but hope withall,
The selfe same Gods that arme the Queene of Troy
With oportunitie of sharpe reuenge
Vpon the Thracian Tyrant in his Tent,
May fauour *Tamora* the Queene of Gothes,
(When Gothes were Gothes, and *Tamora* was Queene)
To quit the bloody wrongs vpon her foes.

Enter the sonnes of Andronicus againe.

Lucius, See Lord and father how we haue perform'd
Our Romaine rightes, *Alarbus* limbs are lopt,
And intrals feede the sacrificing fire,
Whose smoke like incense doth perfume the skie.
Remaineth nought but to interre our bretheren,
And with lowd larums welcome them to Rome..

Titus, Let it be so, and let *Andronicus*
Make this his latest farewell to theyr soules.

Sound trumpets, and lay the Coffin in the Tombe.

In peace and honour rest you heere my sonnes,
Romes readiest Champions, repose you here in rest,
Secure from worldly chaunces and mishaps:
Here lurks no treason, here no enuie swels,
Here grow no damned grudgges, here are no stormes,
No noyse, but silence and eternall sleepe,
In peace and honour rest you heere my sonnes.

Enter Lavinia.

Lavi. In peace and honour, liue Lord *Titus* long,
My noble Lord and Father liue in fame:
Loe at this Tombe my tributarie teares,
I render for my bretherens obsequies:
And at thy feete I kneele, with teares of ioy
Shed on the earth for thy returne to *Rome*.
O blesse me heere with thy victorious hand,
whose fortunes *Rome*'s best Citizens applaud.

Titus. Kind *Rome*, that hast thus lovingly receiue

The

of Titus Andronicus.

The cordiall of mine age to glad my hart,
Lavinia liue, outliue thy fathers dayes,
And Fames eternall date for vertues praise.

Marcus. Long liue Lord *Titus*, my beloued brother,
Gracious triumpher in the eyes of Rome.

Titus. Thankes gentle Tribune, noble brother *Marcus*

Marcus. And welcome Nephews from successfull wars,

You that suruiue, and you that sleepe in fame :
Fairst Lords your fortunes are alike in all,
That in your Countries seruice drew your swords.
But safer triumph is this funerall pompe,
That hath aspired to *Solons* happines,
And triumphs ouer chaunce in honors bed.

Titus Andronicus, the people of Rome,
Whose friend in iustice thou hast euer bene,
Send thee by me their Tribune and their trust,
This Palliament of white and spotlesse hue,
And name thee in election for the Empire,
With these our late deceased Emperours sonnes :
Be *Candidatus* then, and put it on,
And helpe to set a head on headles Rome.

Titus. A better head her glorious body fits,
Then his, that shakes for age and feeblenes :
What should I d'on this robe and trouble you,
Be chosen with proclamations to day,
To morrow yeeld vp rule, resigne my life,
And set abroad new busines for you all.
Rome I haue bene thy Souldier forty yeares,
And led my Countries strength successfullly,
And buried one and twenty valiant sonnes,
Knighted in Field, slaine manfully in Armes,
In right and seruice of their noble Countrie :
Giue me a staffe of Honour for mine age,
But not a scepter to controule the world,

B

Vpright

The most lamentable Tragedie

Vpright he held it Lords, that held it last.

Marcus. Titus, thou shalt obtaine and aske the Emperie.

Saturn. Proud and ambitious Tribune canst thou tell?

Titus. Patience Prince *Saturninus*.

Satur. Romaines doe me right.

Patricians draw your swords and sheath them not

Till *Saturninus* be Romes Emperour :

Andronicus would thou wert shipt to hell,

Rather then rob me of the peoples harts.

Lucius. Proud *Saturnine*, interrupter of the good
That noble minded *Titus* meanes to thee.

Titus. Content thee Prince, I will restore to thee
The peoples harts, and weane them from themselves.

Bassian. Andronicus, I doe not flatter thee,^o
But honour thee, and will do till I die :

My faction if thou strengthen with thy friend,

I will most thankfull be, and thanks to men

Of noble mindes, is honorable meede.

Titus. People of Rome, and peoples Tribunes here,
I aske your voyces and your suffrages,

Will you bestow them friendly on *Andronicus*?

Tribunes. To gratifie the good *Andronicus*,

And gratulate his safe returne to Rome,

The people will accept whome he admits.

Titus. Tribunes I thanke you, and this sute I make,

That you create your Emperours eldest sonne,

Lord *Saturnine*, whose vertues will I hope,

Reflect on Rome as Tytans rayes on earth,

And ripen iustice in this common weale :

Then if you will elect by my aduise,

Crowne him, and say, long liue our Emperour.

Marcus. An. With voyces and applause of euery sort,
Patricians and Plebeans we create

Lord *Saturninus* Romes great Emperour.

And

of Titus Andronicus.

And say, *Long live our Emperour Saturnine.*

Saturni. *Titus Andronicus*, for thy fauours done;
To vs in our election this day,
I giue thee thanks in part of thy deserts,
And will with deeds requite thy gentlenes:
And for an onset *Titus* to aduance
Thy name, and honorable familie,
Lavinia will I make my Empresse,
Rome royall Mistris, Mistris of my hart,
And in the sacred *Pathe* her espouse:
Tell me *Andronicus* doth this motion please thee?

Titus. It doth my worthy Lord, and in this match,
I hold me highly honoured of your Grace.
And heere in sight of Rome, to Saturnine,
King and Commander of our common weale,
The wide worlds Emperour, doe I consecrate,
My sword, my Chariot, and my prisoners,
Presents well worthy *Romes* imperiall Lord:
Receive them then, the tribute that I owe,
Mine honours Ensignes humbled at thy feete.

Satur. Thanks noble *Titus*, Father of my life,
How proud I am of thee, and of thy gifts.
Rome shall record, and when I do forget
The least of these vnspeakable deserts,
Romans forget your fealtie to me.

Titus. Now Madam are you prisoner to an Emperour,
To him that for your honour and your state,
Will vse you nobly and your followers.

Satur. A gooly Lady, trust me of the hue
That I would choose, were I to choose a new:
Cleere vpfaire Queene that cloudy countenance,
Though chance of war hath wrought this change of cheere,
Thou comst not to be made a scoone in Rome:
Princely shall be thy vsage every way.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Rest on my word, and let not discontent
Durst all your hopes: Madame he comforts you,
Can make you greater then the Queene of *Goths*;
Lavinia you are not displeas'd with this.

Lavinia. Not I my Lord, sith true Nobilitie,
Warrants these words in princely curtesie.

Satur. Thanks sweete *Lavinia*, Romans let vs goe,
Ransomes heere we set our prisoners free,
Proclaime our honours Lords with trumpe and Drum.

Bassianus. Lord *Titus* by your leaue, this maid is mine.

Titus. How sir, are you in earnest then my Lord?

Bassianus. I noble *Titus*, and resolu'd withall,
To doe my selfe this reason and this right.

Marcus. *Summum ius* is our Romane iustice,
This Prince in iustice ceazeth but his owne.

Lucius. And that he will and shall, if *Lucius* liue.

Titus. Traytors auaunt, where is the Emperours garde?
Treason my Lord, *Lavinia* is surprisde.

Satur. Surprisde by whome?

Bassianus. By him that iustly may
Beare his betrothd, from all the world away.

Mutius. Brothers helpe to conuey her hence away,
And with my sword Ile keepe this doore safe.

Titus. Follow my Lord, and Ile soone bring her back.

Mutius. My Lord you passe not heere.

Titus. What villaine boy, barst me my way in Rome?

Mutius. Helpe *Lucius* helpe. *He kills him.*

Lucius. My Lord you are vniust, and more then so,
In wrongfull quarrell you haue slaine your sonne.

Titus. Nor thou, nor he are any sonnes of mine,
My sonnes would neuer so dishonour me,

Traytor restore *Lavinia* to the Emperour.

Lucius. Dead if you will but not to be his wife,
That is anothers lawfull promitt loue.

Enter

of *Titus Andronicus*,

*Enter aloft the Emperour with Tamora and her two
sonnes, and Aron the Moore.*

Emperour, No *Titus*, no, the Emperour needs her not,
Nor her, nor thee, nor any of thy stocke:
He trust by leifure him that mocks me once,
Thee neuer, nor thy trayterous haughty sonnes,
Confederates all thus to dishonour me.

Was none in Rome to make a stale
But *Saturnine*? Full well *Andronicus*
Agree these deeds, with that proud bragge of thine,
That saidst I begd the Empire at thy hands.

Titus, O monstrous, what reprochfull words are these?
Satyr. But goe thy wayes, goe giue that changing peece,
To him that flourisht for her with his sword:
A valiant sonne in law thou shalt enioy,
One, fit to bandy with thy lawlesse sonnes,
To ruffle in the Common-wealth of Rome.

Titus. These words are razors to my wounded hart.
Satyr. And therefore louely *Tamora* Queene of *Gothes*,
That like the stately *Thebe* mongst her Nymphs,
Dost overshine the gallant'st Dames of Rome,
If thou be pleas'd with this my sodaine choyse,
Behold I choose thee *Tamora* for my Bride,
And will create thee Emperesse of Rome.
Speake Queene of *Gothes* dost thou applaud my choyse?
And heere I sweare by all the Romaine Gods,
Sith Priest and holy water are so neere,
And tapers burne so bright, and euery thing
In readines for *Hymeneus* stand,
I will not resalute the streets of Rome,
Or clime my Pallace, til from forth this place,
I lead espouse my Bride along with me.

Tamora. And heere in sight of heaven to Rome I sweare,
If *Saturnine* aduance the Queene of *Gothes*,

The most lamentable Tragedie

She will a handmaid be to his desires,
A louing Nurse, a Mother to his youth.

Sai. Ascend faire Queene, Pantheon Lords, accompany
Your noble Emperour and his louely Bride,
Sent by the heauens for Prince *Saturnine*,
Whose wisdom hath her Fortune conquered,
There shall we consummate our spouall rites.

Exeunt omnes.

Titus. I am not bid to waite vpon this Bride,
Titus when wert thou wont to walke alone,
Dishonoured thus and challenged of wrongs?

Enter Marcus and Titus sonnes.

Marcus. O *Titus* see! O see what thou hast done!
In a bad quarrell slaine a vertuous sonne.

Titus. No foolish Tribune, no: No sonne of mine,
Nor thou, nor these, confederates in the deede,
That hath dishonoured all our Family,
Vnworthy brother, and vnworthy sonnes.

Lucius. But let vs giue him buriall as becomes:
Giue *Mutius* buriall with our bretheren.

Titus. Traytors away, he rests not in this tombe:
This monument fife hundreth yeares hath stood,
Which I haue sumptuously reedified:
Heere none but Souldiers and Romes Seruitors,
Repose in fame: None basely slaine in braules,
Bury him where you can he comes not heere.

Marcus. My Lord this is impiety in you,
My Nephew *Mutius* deeds do plead for him,
He must be buried with his bretheren.

Titus two sonnes speakes.

And shall, or him we will accompany.

Titus. And shall! What villaine was it spake that word?

Titus sonne speakes

He that would vouch it in any place but heere.

Titus.

of Titus Andronicus.

Titus What would you bury him in my despight?

Marcus. No noble *Titus* but intreat of thee,
To pardon *Mutius*, and to bury him.

Titus. *Marcus*, Euen thou hast stroke vpon my crest,
And with these boyes mine honour thou hast wounded,
My foes I doe repute you euery one.
So trouble me no more, but get you gone.

3. *Sonne.* He is not with himselfe, let vs withdraw.

e. *Sonne.* Not I till *Mutius* bones be buried.

The brother and the sonnes kneele.

Marcus. Brother, for in that name doth nature plead

2. *Sonne.* Father, and in that name doth nature speake.

Titus. Speake thou no more if all the rest will speake.

Marc. Renowned *Titus* more then halfe my soule.

Lucius. Deare Father, soule and substance of vs all.

Marc. Suffer thy brother *Marcus* to interre

His noble nephew heere in vertues nest,

That died in honour and *Lavinias* cause.

Thou art a Romaine be not barbarous:

The Greekes vpon aduise did bury *Alex*

That slew himselfe; and wise *Laertes* sonne,

Did graciously plead for his Funeralls

Let not young *Mutius* then that was thy ioy,

Beard his entrance heere.

Titus. Rise *Marcus*, rise,

The dismalst day is this that ere I saw,

To be dishonored by my sonnes in Rome:

Well bury him, and bury me the next.

They put him in the Tombe.

Lucius. There lie thy bones sweet *Mutius* with thy friends

Till we with Trophies do adorne thy tombe.

They all kneele and say,

No man shed teares for noble *Mutius*,

He liues in fame that did in vertues cause.

Exit

The most lamentable Tragedie

Exit all but Marcus and Titus.

Marcus. My Lord to step out of these drie dumps,
How comes it that the subtle *Queene of Gothes*,
Is of a sodaine thus aduanced in Rome?

Titus. I know not *Marcus*: but I know it is,
(Whether by deuise or no) the heauens can tell,
Is she not then beholding to the man,
That brought her for this high good turne so farre?

*Enter the Emperor, Tamora and her two sonnes, with the Moore
at one doore. Enter at the other doore Bassianus and
Lavinia with others.*

Satur. So *Bassianus*, you haue plaid your prize,
God giue you ioy fir of your gallant Bride.

Bassia. And you of yours my Lord. I say no more,
Nor wish no lesse, and so I take my leaue.

Satur. Traytor, if Rome haue law, or we haue power,
Thou and thy faction shall repent this Rape.

Bassia. Rape call you it my Lord, to cease my owne,
My true betrothed loue, and now my wife?
But let the lawes of Rome determine all,
Meane while I am possesst of that is mine.

Satur. Tis good sir, you are very short with vs,
But if we liue weele be as sharpe with you.

Bassian. My Lord, what I haue done as best I may,
Answere I must, and shall do with my life,
Onely thus much I giue your Grace to know,
By all the duties that I owe to Rome,
This noble Gentleman, Lord *Titus* heere,
Is in opinion and in honour wrong'd,
That in the rescue of *Lavinia*,
With his owne hand did slay his youngest sonne,
In zeale to you, and highly mou'd to wrath.

T.

of *Titus Andronicus*

To be contrould in that he frankly gaue,
Receauie him then to fauour *Saturnine*,
That hath exprest himselfe in all his deedes
A Father and a friend to thee and Rome.

Titus. Prince *Bassianus* leaue to plead my deedes,
Tis thou, and those, that haue dishonoured me,
Rome and the righteous heauens be my iudge,
How I haue lou'd and honoured *Saturnine*.

Tamora. My worthy Lord if euer *Tamora*,
Were gracious in those princely eyes of thine,
Then heare me speake indifferently for all:
And at my sute (sweete) pardon what is past.

Satur. What Madam, be dishonoured openly,
And basely put it vp without revenge?

Tamora. Not so my Lord, the Gods of Rome forsend
I should be Author to dishonour you.
But on mine honour dare I vndertake,
For good Lord *Titus* innocence in all:
Whose fury not dissembled speakes his griefes:
Then at my sute looke graciously on him,
Loose not so noble a friend on vaine suppose,
Nor with sowe lookes afflict his gentle heart.

My Lord, be ruld by me, be wonne at last,
Dissemble all your griefes and discontents,
You are but newly planted in your Throne,
Least then the people, and Patricians too,
Vpon a iust furuay take *Titus* part,
And so supplant vs for ingratitude,
Which Rome reputes to be a hainous sinne.
Yeeld at intreats, and then let me alone
Ile finde a day to massacre them all,
And race their faction and their familie,
The cruell Father, and his traytrous sonnes,
To whome I sued for my deere sonnes life.

C.

And

The most lamentable Tragedie

And make them know what tis to let a Queene
Kneele in the streetes, and beg for grace in vaine.
Come, come, sweet Emperour, (come *Andronicus*)
Take vp this good old man, and cheere the heart,
That dies in tempest of thy angry frowne.

King. Rise *Titus*, rise, my Empresse hath preuaild.

Titus. I thanke you maiestie, and her my Lord.
These words, these lookes, infuse new life in me.

Tamora. *Titus* I am incorporate in Rome,
A Roman now adopted happily,
And must aduise the Emperour for his good,
This day all quarrels die *Andronicus*,
And let it be mine honour good my Lord,
That I haue reconcil'd your friends and you.
For you Prince *Bassianus*, I haue past
My word and promise to the Emperour,
That you will be more milde and tractable.
And feare not Lords: and you *Lavinia*,
By my aduise all humbled on your knees,
You shall aske pardon of his Maiestie.

All. We doe, and vow to heauen, and to his highnes,
That what we did, was mildly as we might,
Tending our sisters honour and our owne.

Marc. That on mine honour heere I do protest.

King. Away and talke not, trouble vs no more.

Tamora. Nay, nay, sweet Emperour, we must all be friends
The Tribune and his Nephews kneele for grace,
I will not be denied, sweet hart looke back.

King. *Marcus*, for thy sake and thy brothers heere,
And at my louely *Tamora*s intreats,
I doe remit these young mens haynous faults,
Stand vp: *Lavinia*, though you left me like a curle,
I found a friend, and sure as death I swore,
I would not part a Batchiler from the priest.

Come,

of *Titus Andronicus*,

Come, if the Emperours court can feast two Brides,
You are my guest *Lavinia*, and your friends:
This day shall be a loue-day *Tamora*.

Titus. Tomorrow and it please your Maiestie,
To hunt the Panther and the Hart with me,
With horne and hound, wee le giue your grace boniour.

Saturn. Be it so *Titus*, and gramercy to.

Exeunt

Sound Trumpets, manet Moore.

Aron. Now climeth *Tamora* Olympus toppe,
Safe out of Fortunes shot, and sits aloft,
Secure of thunders cracke or lightning flash,
Aduanc'd aboue pale enuies threatning reach,
As when the golden sunne salutes the morne,
And hauing gilt the Ocean with his beames,
Gallops the Zodiacke in his glistering coach,
And ouer-lookes the highest piercing hills.

So *Tamora*.

Vpon her wit doth earthly honour waite,
And vertue stoopes and trembles at her frowne.
Then *Aron* arme thy hart, and sit thy thoughts,
To mount aloft with thy Emperiall Mistis,
And mount her pitch, whome thou in triumph long
Hast prisoner held, settred in amorous chaines,
And faster bound to *Arons* charming eyes,
Then is *Prometheus* tide to *Caucasus*.
Away with slauish weedes and idle thoughts,
I will be bright and shine in pearle and gold,
To waite vpon this new made Emperesse.
To waite said I? to wanton with this Queene,
This Goddesse, this *Semerimis*, this Queene,
This Syren, that will charme *Romes Saturnine*,
And see his shipwracke, and his Common-weales.
Hollo, what storme is this?

Enter Chiron and Demetrius brauing.

C 2

3

D. met.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Demet. *Chiron* thy yeres want wit, thy wit wants edge
And manners to intrude where I am grac'd,
And may for ought thou knowest affected be.

Chiron. *Demetrius*, thou doost ouerweene in all,
And so in this, to beare me downe with braues,
Tis not the difference of a yere or two
Makes me lesse gracious, or thee more fortunate;
I am as able, and as fit as thou,
To serue, and to deserue my Mistris grace,
And that my sword vpon thee shall approue,
And plead my passions for *Lavinias* loue.

Moore. Clubs, clubs, these louers will not keep the peace.

Demet. Why boy, although our mother (vnaduizd)
Gauē you a daunsing rapier by your side,
Are you so desprat growne to threat your friends?
Goe too: haue your lath glued within your sheath,
Till you know better how to handle it.

Chiron. Meane whiles fir, with the little skill I haue,
Full well shalt thou perceiue how much I dare.

Demet. I boy, grow ye so braue? *they draw.*

Axon. Why how now Lords?
So neere the Emperours pallace dare you draw,
And maintaine such a quarrell openly?
Full well I wote, the ground of all this grudge,
I would not for a million of gold,
The cause were knowne to them it most concernes.
Nor would your noble mother for much more
Be so dishonored in the Court of Rome.
For shame put vp.

Demet. Not I, till I haue sheathd
My rapier in his bosome, and withall
Thrust these reprochfull speeches downe his throat,
That he hath breathd in my dishonour he etc.

Chiron. For that I am prepard, and full resolute,

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of *Titus Andronicus*.

Foule spoken Coward, that thundrest with thy tongue,
And with thy weapon nothing durst performe.

Moore. Away I say.

Now by the Gods that warlike *Gothes* adore,
This petty brabble will vndoo vs all:
Why Lords, and thinke you nothow dangerous
It is to iet vpon a Princes right?

What is *Lavinia* then become soloose,

Or *Bassianus* so degenerate,

That for her loue such quarrels may be brocht,

Without controulement, iustice, or reuenge?

Young Lords beware, and should the Empresse know,

This discords ground, the musicke would not please.

Chiron. I care not I, knew she and all the world,
I loue *Lavinia* more then all the world. (choise

Demet. Youngling learne thou to make some meaner
Lavinia is thine elder brothers hope.

Moore. Why are ye mad? or know ye not in Rome,
How furious and impatient they be,
And cannot brooke competitors in loue?
I tell you Lords, you doe but plot your deaths,
By this deuise.

Chiron. *Aron,* A thousand deaths would I propose,
To atchieue her whome I do loue.

Aron. To atchieue her, how?

Demetri. Why, makes thou it so strange?
Shee is a woman, therefore may be woo'd,
Shee is a woman, therefore may be wonne,
Shee is *Lavinia* therefore must be lou'd.
What man, more water glideth by the mill
Then wots the Miller of, and easie it is,
Of a cut loafe to steale a triue we know:
Though *Bassianus* be the Emperours brother,
Better then he haue worne *Vulcans* badge.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Moore. I, and as good as *Saturnine* may.

Demet. Then why should he dispaire that knowes to
With words, faire lookes, and liberality? (court it
What hast not thou full often stricke a Doe,
And borne her cleanly by the Keepers nose?

Moore. Why then it seemes some certaine snatch or so
Would serue your turnes.

Chiron. I so the turne were serued.

Demet. *Aron* thou hast hit it.

Moore. Would you had hit it too,
Then should not we be tirde with this adoo.
Why harkey ee, harkey ee, and are you such fooles,
To square for this? would it offend you then
That both should speede?

Chiron. Faith not me.

Demet. Nor me, so I were one.

Aron. For shame befriends, and ioyne for that you iat,
Tis pollicie and stratageme must doe
That you affect, and so must you resolute,
That what you cannot as you would atchieue,
You must perforce accomplish as you may:
Take this of me, *Lucretia* was not more chaste
Then this *Lavinia*, *Bassanus* loue.

A speedier course this lingring languishment
Must we persue, and I haue found the path:
My Lords, a solemne hunting is in hand,
There will the louely Roman Ladies troope:
The forrest walkes are wide and spacious,
And many vnfrequented plots there are,
Fitted by kinde for rape and villanie:
Single you thither then this dainty Doe,
And strike her home By force if not by words,
This way or not at all, stand you in hope,
Come, come, our Empresse with her sacred wit

To

of Titus Andronicus.

To villanie and vengeance consecrate,
Will we acquaint with all that we intend,
And she shall file our engines with aduise,
That will not suffer you to square your selues,
But to your wishes height aduance you both.
The Emperours court is like the house of fame,
The pallace full of tongues, of eyes, of eares:
The woods are ruthles, dreadfull, deafe, and dull:
There speake, and strike braue boyes, and take your turnes.
There serue your lust, shadowed from heauens eye,
And reuell in *Lavinias* treasure.

Chiron. Thy counsell had smells of no cowardise.

Demetrius. *Sis fas aut nefas*, till I finde the streame,
To coole this heat, a charme to calme their fits.

Per Stigia, per manes Vebor.

Exeunt.

*Enter Titus Andronicus and his three sonnes, making
a noyse with hounds and hornes.*

Titus. The hunt is vp, the morne is bright and gray,
The fields are fragrant, and the woods are Greene,
Vncouple heere, and let vs make a bay,
And wake the Emperour, and his louely Bride,
And rouse the Prince, and ring a hunters peale,
That all the court may eccho with the noyse.
Sonnes let it be your charge, as it is ours,
To attend the Emperours person carefully:
I haue bene troubled in my sleepe this night,
But dawning day new comfort hath inspirde.

*Heere a cry of houndes, and winde hornes in a peale, then enter
Saturninus, Tamora, Bassianus Lavinia, Chiron, Demetrius, and their Attendants.*

Titus. Many good morrowes to your maiestie,
Madam to you as many and as good.
I promised your Grace, a Hunters peale.

Satur.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Saturnine. And you haue rung it lustily my Lords,
Somewhat too early for new married Ladies,

Bassia. Lanina, how say you? (more.)

Laninia. I say no: I haue bene broad awake two houres &c

Satur. Come on then, horse and Chariots let vs haue,
And to our sport: Madam, now shall ye see,
Our Romaine hunting.

Marcus. I haue doggs my Lord,
Will rouse the proudest Panther in the Chase,
And clime the highest promontary top.

Titus. And I haue horse will follow where the game
Makes way, and runnes like swallowes ore the plaine.

Deme. *Chiron* we hunt not we, with horse nor hound
But hope to plucke a dainty Doe to ground. *Exeunt.*

Enter Aron alone.

Moore. He that had wit would thinke that I had none,
To bury so much gold vnder a tree,
And neuer after to inherite it.
Let him that thinks of me so abiectly,
Know that this gold must coine a stratageme,
Which cunningly effected, will beget
A very excellent peece of villany:
And so repose sweet gold for their ynrest,
That haue their almes out of the Empreffe Chest.

Enter Tamora alone to the Moore.

Tamora. My louely Aron, wherefore look'st thou sad,
When euery thing doth make a gleefull boast?
The birds chaunt melody on euery bush,
The Snake lies rolled in the chearefull sunne,
The greene leaues quier with the cooling winde,
And make a checker'd shadow on the ground:
Vnder their sweet shade, Aron let vs sit,
And whilst the babling Ecchoe mocks the hounds,
Replying shrilly to the well tun'd hornes,

As

of Titus Andronicus.

As if a double hunt were heard at once,
Let vs sit downe and marke their yellowing noyse:
And after conflict such as was supposde
The wandering Prince and *Dido* once enioyed,
When with a happy storme they were surprisde,
And curtaind with a counsaile-keeping *Caue*,
Wemay each wreathed in the others armes,
(Our pastimes done) possesse a golden slumber,
Whiles hounds and hornes, and sweet melodious birds
Be vnto vs as is a Nurfes song
Of Lullabie, to bring her Babe asleepe.

Aron. Madame, though *Venus* gouerne your desires,
Saturne is dominator ouer mine:

What signifies my deadly standing eye,
My silence, and my cloudy melancholie,
My fleece of Woolly haire that now vncurles,
Euen as an Adder when she doth vnrowle
To do some fatal execution?
No Madam, there are no veneriall signes,
Vengeance is in my heart, death in my hand,
Blood and reuenge are hammering in my head.
Harke *Tamora* the Empreffe of my soule,
Which neuer hopes more heauen then rests in thee,
This is the day of doome for *Bassianus*,
His *Phoebus* must loose her tongue to day,
Thy sonnes make pillage of her chastity,
And wash their hands in *Bassianus* blood.
See'st thou this letter, take it vp I pray thee,
And giue the King this fatall plott'd scrowle,
Now question me no more we are espied,
Heere comes a parcell of our hopefull beo'ty,
Which dreads not yet their liues destruction.

Enter Bassianus and Lavinia

Tamora. Ah my sweete *Moore*, sweeter to me then life.

D

Moore.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Moore. No more great Empresse, *Bassianus* comes,
Be crosse with him, and Ile goe fetch thy sonnes
To backe thy quarrell what so ere they be.

Bessia. Who haue we heere? Romes royall Empresse,
Vnfurnisht of our well besecming troupe?
Or is it *Dian* habited like her,
Who hath abandoned her holy Groves,
To see the generall hunting in this Forrest?

Tamora. Sawcie controuler of our priuate steps,
Had I the power, that some say *Dian* had,
Thy temples should be planted presently,
With hornes as was *Ateons*, and the hounds,
Should drive vpon his new transformed limbes,
Vnmannerly intruder as thou art.

Lavinia. Vnder your patience gentle Empresse,
Tis thought you haue a goodly gift in horning,
And to be doubred that your *Moore* and you,
Are singled forth to try experiments:
Ioue shield your husband from his hounds to day,
Tis pittie they should take him for a Stag.

Bassian. Beleeue me Queene your swarty Cymerion,
Doth make your honour of his bodies hue,
Spotted, detested, and abhominable,
Why are you sequestred from all your traine?
Dismounted from your snow white goodly steed,
And wandred hither to an obscure plot,
Accompanied with a barbarous *Moore*,
If soule desire had not condricted you?

Lavinia. And being intercepted in your sport,
Great reason that my noble Lord be raed
For faulnes, I pray you let vs hence,
And let her toy her Raven cu'loured loue,
This valley fits the purpose passing well.

Bessia. The King my brother shall haue notice of this.

Lavinia.

of Titus Andronicus.

Lavinia. I, for these slips haue made him nored long,
Good King to be somightily abused.

Queene. Why I haue patience to endure all this.

Enter Chiron and Demetrius.

Dem. How now deere squeraigne & our gracious mother
Why doth your Highnes looke so pale and wane?

Queene. Haue I not reason thinke you to looke pale
These two haue tyced me hither to this place,
A barren, detested vale you see it is,
The trees though Sommer, yet forlorne and leane,
Orecome with mosse and balefull Mistleto.

Heere neuer shines the Sunne, heere nothing breeds,
Vnlesse the nightly Owle or fatall Rauē:

And when they shewd me this abhorred pit,
They told me heere at dead time of the night,
A thousand feinds, a thousand hissing snakes,
Tenthousand swelling toades, as many vrchins,
Would make such fearefull and confused cries,

As any mortall body hearing it
Should straite fall mad, or else die suddainely:
No sooner had they told this hellish tale,
But strait they told me they would binde me heere,
Vnto the body of a dismall Ewe,
And leaue me to this miserable death.

And then they calld me foule adulteresse,
Lasciuious Goth, and all the bitterest tearmes,
That euer eare did heare to such effect.

And had you not by wondrous fortune come,
This vengeance on me had they executed:
Reuenge it as you loue your mothers life,
Or be ye not henceforth cald my children.

Demet. This is a witnes that I am thy sonne. *slab him.*

Chiron. And this for me strook home to shew my strength

Lavinia. I come Semeramis, nay Barberous Tamora.

The most lamentable Tragedie

For no name fits thy nature but thy owne.

Tamora. Giue me thy ponyard, you shal know my boyes.
Your mothers hand shall right your mothers wrong.

Demet. Stay Madam, heere is more belongs to her,
First thrash the corne, then after burne the straw:
This minion flood vpon her chastity,
Vpon her Nuptiall vow, her loyaltie.

And with that paired hope, braues your mightines,
And shall she carry this vnto her graue?

Chiron. And if she doe, I would I were an Euenuke,
Drag hence her husband to some secrethole,
And make his dead trunk pillow to our lust.

Tamora. But when ye haue the honny we desire,
Let not this waspe out-lieue vs both to sting.

Chiron. I warrant you Madam we will make that sure,
Come mistris, now perforce we will enioy,
That nice preserued honestie of yours.

Lavinia. Oh *Tamora*, thou bearest a woman's face.

Tamora. I will not heare her speake, away with her.

Lavinia. Sweet Lords intreat her heare me but a word.

Demet. Listen faire Madam, let it be your glory
To see her teares, but be your hart to them
As vnrelenting flint to drops of raine.

Lavinia. When did the Tigers young ones teach the dame
O doe not learne her wrath, she taught it thee,
The milke thou suckst from her did turne to Marble,
Euen at thy teat thou hadst thy tyranny,
Yet euery Mother breeds not sonnes alike,
Do thou intreat her shew a woman pittie. (bastard)

Chiron. What wouldst thou haue me proue my selfe a

Lavinia. Tis true, the Raven doth not hatch a Lark,
Yet haue I heard, Oh could I finde it now,
The Lion moued with pittie, did indure
To haue his princely pawes parde all away.

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of *Titus Andronicus*.

Some say that Rauens foster forlorne children,
The whilst their owne birds famish in their nests:
Oh beto me though thy hard hart say no,
Nothing so kinde but something pittifull.

Tamora. I know not what it meares, away with her.

Lavinia. Oh let me teach thee for my fathers sake,
That gaue thee life when well he might haue slaine thee,
Be not obdurate, open thy deafe cares.

Tamora. Hadst thou in person nere offended me,
Euen for his sake am I pittifesse.

Remember boyes I powrd forth teares in vaine,
To saue your brother from the sacrifice,
But fierce *Andronicus* would not relent,
Therefore away with her, and vse her as you will,
The worse to her, the better lou'd of me.

Lavinia. Oh *Tamora* be call'd a gentle Queene,
And with thine owne hands kill me in this place,
Fortis not life that I haue begd so long,
Poore I was slaine when *Bassianus* did.

Tamora. What Begst thou then? fond woman let me goe?

Lavinia. Tis present death I beg, and one thing more,
That womanhood denies my tongue to tell,
Oh keepe me from their worse then killing lust,
And tumble me into some loathsome pit,
Where neuer manseye may behold my body,
Doethis and be a charitable murderer.

Tamora. So should I ob my sweet sonnes of their foe,
No, let them satisfie their lust on thee.

Demet. Away, for thou hast staid vs heere too long.

Lavinia. No grace, no womanhood, ah beastly creature,
The blot and enemy to our generall name,
Confusion fall—

(husband)

Chiron. Nay then Ile stop your mouth, bring thou her
Thus is the hole where *Aron* bid vs hide him.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Tamora. Farewell my sonnes see that you make her fuge,
Nere let my hart know merry cheere indeed,
Till all the *Adronicie* be made away:
Now will I hence to seek my louely Moore,
And let my spleenefull sonnes this Trull defloure,

Enter Aron with two of Titus sonnes.

Come on my Lords, the better foote before,
Straight will I bring you to the lothsome pit,
Where I espied the Panther fast asleepe.

Quintus. My sight is very dull what ere it bodes.

Mart. And mine I promise you, were it not for shame,
Well could I leaue our sport to sleepe a while.

Quin. What art thou fallen? what subtil hole is this,
Whose mouth is couered with rude growing briers,
Vpon whose leaues are drops of new shed blood,
As fresh as morning s dew distild on flowers,
A very fatall place it seemes to me,
Speake brother hast thou hurt thee with the fall?

Mart. Oh brother, with the dismalst obiect,
That euer eye with sight made hart lament.

Aron. Now will I fetch the King to finde them heere;
That he thereby may haue a likely gesse,
How these were they that made away his brother, *Exit*

Mart. Why dost not comfort me and helpe me out,
From this vn hollow and blood stained hole.

Quint. I am surpris'd with an vncouth feare,
A chilling sweat ereruns my trembling ioynts,
My hart suspects more then mine eie can see.

Mart. To proue thou hast a true diuining hart,
Aron and thou looke downe into this den,
And see a fearefull sight of blood and death.

Quint. *Aron* is gone, and my compassionate hart,
Will not permit mine eyes once to behold,
The thing whereat it trembles by surmise:

Oh

of *Titus Andronicus*,

Oh tell me how it is, for nere till now
Was I a child, to feare I know not what.

Martius. Lord *Bassianus* lies embrewed heere,
All on a heape like to a slaughtered Lambe,
In this detested darke blood drinking pit.

Quintus. If it be darke how doost thou know tis he?

Martius. Vpon his bloody finger he doth weare
A precious ring, that lightens all the hole:
Which like a taper in some monument,
Doth shine vpon the dead mans earthly checkes,
And shewes the ragged intrales of this pit:
So pale did shine the Moone on *Piramus*,
When he by night lay bath'd in Maiden blood,
O brother helpe me with thy fainting hand,
If feare hath made thee faint, as mee it hath,
Out of this fell deuouring receptacle,
As hatefull as *Oculus* mistie mouth.

Quin. Reach me thy hand, that I may help thee out,
Or wanting strength to doe thee so much good,
I may be pluckt into the swallowing wombe,
Ot this deepe pit, poore *Bassianus* graue:
I haue no strength to plucke thee to the brink.

Martin. Nor I no strength to clime without thy help.

Quin. Thy hand once more, I will not loose againe,
Till thou art heere aloft, or I below,
Thou canst not come to me, I come to thee.

Enter the Emperour, Aron the Moore.

Satur. Along with me, Ile see what holc is heere,
And what he is that now is leapt into it.
Say, who art thou that lately didst descend,
Into this gaping hollow of the earth?

Martius. The vnhappie sonne of old *Andronicus*,
Brought hither in a most valuckie houre,

To

The most lamentable Tragedie

To finde thy brother *Bassianus* dead.

Saturnin. My brother dead, I know thou dost but iest,
He and his Lady both are at the Lodge,
Vpon the north side of this pleasant chafe,
Tis not an houre since I left him there.

Mart. We know not where you left them all aliue,
But out alas, heere haue we found him dead.

Enter Tamora, Andronicus and Lucius.

Tamora. Where is my Lord the King?

King. Here *Tamora*, though grieved with killing grieffe.

Tamora. Where is thy brother *Bassianus*?

King. Now to the bottome dost thou search my wound,
Poore *Bassianus* heere lies murdered.

Tamora. Then all too late I bring this fatal writ.
The complot of this timeles Tragedie,
And wonder greatly that mans face can fold,
In pleasing smiles such murderous tyrannie.

She giueth Saturnine a Letter.

Saturninus reads the Letter.

*And if we misse to meete him handsomely,
Sweet huntsman Bassianus tis we meane,
Doe thou so much as dig the graue for him,
Thou knowst our meaning, looke for thy reward.
Among the nettles at the Elder tree,
Which ouer-shades the mouth of that same pit,
Where we decreed to bury Bassianus,
Doe this and purchase vs thy lasting friends.*

King. Oh *Tamora* was euer heard the like?
This is the pit, and this the elder tree,
Looke sirs if you can finde the huntsman out,
That should haue murdered *Bassianus* heere.

Aron. My gracious Lord heere is the bag of gold,

King

of *Titus Andronicus*.

King. Two of thy whelpes, fell curs of bloody kinde,
Haue heere bereft my brother of his life:
Sirs drag them from the pit vnto the prison,
There let them bide vntill we haue deuisd
Some neuer heard-of tortering paine for them.

Tamora. What are they in this pit, oh wondrous thing!
How easily murder is discovered?

Titus. High Emperour vpon my feeble knee,
I beg this boone, with teares not lightly shed,
That this fell fault of my accursed sonnes,
Accursed, if the faults be prou'd in them,

King. If it be prou'd! you see it is apparant,
Who found this letter, *Tamora* was it you?

Tamora. *Andronicus* himselfe did take it vp.

Titus. I did my Lord, yet let me be their baile,
For by my Fathers reuerent tombe I vow
They shall be ready at your Highnes will,
To answer their suspicion with their liues.

King. Thou shalt not baile them, see thou follow me.
Some bring the murdered body, some the murderers,
Let them not speake a word, the guilt is plaine,
For by my soule, were there worse end then death,
That end vpon them should be executed.

Tamora. *Andronicus* I wil entreat the King,
Feare not thy sonnes, they shall do well enough.

Titus. Come *Lucius* come, stay not to talke with them.

*Enter the Emperresse sonnes, with Lavinia, her hands cut off
and her tongue cut out, and rauisht.*

Demet. So now goe tell and if thy tongue can speake,
Who was it that cut thy tongue and rauisht thee.

Chiron. Write downe thy minde, bewray thy meaning so,
And if thy stumpes will let thee play the scribe.

Demet. See how with signes and tokens she can scrowle.

Chiron. Goe home, call for sweet water, wash thy hands.

E

Demet.

Shakespeare, W.

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The most lamentable Tragedie

Dem. She hath no tongue to call, nor hands to wash,
And so lets leaue her to her silent walkes.

Chiron. And were my cause, I should goe hang my selfe.

Dem. If thou hadst hands to helpe thee knit the cord.

Enter Marcus from hunting.

Who is this my Neece that flies away so fast?

Cosen a word, where is your husband?

If I do dreame would all my wealth would wake me,

If I doe wake, some Planer strike me downe,

That I may slumber in eternall sleepe.

Speake gentle Neece, what sterne vngentle hands,

Hath lopt and hewd, and made thy body bare,

Of her two branches, those sweet ornaments

Whose circling shadowes, Kings haue sought to sleepe in,

And might not gaine so great a happines

As halfe thy loue: Why doost not speake to me?

Alas, a crimson riuer of warme blood,

Like to a bubling fountaine stird with winde,

Doth rise and fall betweene thy Rosed lips,

Comming and going with thy honny breath.

But sure some *Tereus* hath defloured thee,

And least thou shouldst detect them, cut thy tongue.

Ah now thou turnst away thy face for shame.

And notwithstanding all this losse of blood,

As from a Conduit with their issuing spouts,

Yet doe thy cheekes looke red as *Tians* face,

Blushing to be encountred with a clowde.

Shall I speake for thee, shall I say tis so?

Oh that I knew thy hart, and knew the beast,

That I might raile at him to ease my minde.

Sorrow concealed, like an Ouen stopt,

Doth burne the hart to cinders where it is.

Faire *Phylomella* she but lost her tongue,

And in a tedious sampler sowed her minde.

But

of Titus Andronicus.

But louely Neece, that meane is cut from thee,
A craftier *Terens* hast thou met,
And he hath cut those pretty fingers off,
That could haue better sowed then *Philomet.*
Oh had the monster scene those Lilly hands,
Tremble like A spen leaues vpon a Lute,
And make the filken strings delight to kisse them,
He would not then haue toucht them for his life.
Or had he heard the heauenly Harmony,
Which that sweet tongue hath made :
He would haue dropt his knife and fell asleepe,
As *Cerberus* at the Thracian Poets fecte.
Come let vs goe, and make thy father blinde,
For such a sight will blinde a fathers eye.
One houres storme will drowne the fragrant meades,
What will whole months of teares thy Fathers eyes?
Do not draw backe, for we will mourne with thee,
Oh could our mourning ease thy misery. *Exeunt*

Enter the Iudges and Senators with Titus two sonnes bound, passing on the Stage to the place of execution, and Titus going before pleading.

Titus. Heare me graue fathers, noble Tribunes stay,
For pittie of mine age, whose youth was spent
In dangerous warres, whilst you securely slept.
For ail my blood in Romes great quarrell shed,
For all the frosty nights that I haue watcht,
And for these bitter teares, which now you see,
Filling the aged wrinkles in my cheekes,
Be pittifull to my condemned Sonnes,
Whose soules is not corrupted as tis thought.
For two and twenty sonnes I neuer wept,
Because they died in honours lofty bed.

Andronicus lyes downe, and the Iudges passe by him.

The most lamentable Tragedie

For these, Tribunes, in the dust I write
My harts deepe languor, and my soules sad teares:
Let my teares stanch the earths drie appetite,
My sonnes sweet blood, will make it shame and blush:
O earth, I will befriend thee more with raine
That shall distill from these two ancient ruines,
Then youthfull Aprill shall with all his showres.
In Summers drought, Ile drop vpon thee still,
In Winter with warme teares Ile melt the snow,
And keepe eternall spring time on thy face,
So thou refuse to drinke my deere sonnes blood.

Enter Lucius, with his weapon drawne.

Oh reuerent Tribunes, oh gentle aged men,
Vnbinde my sonnes, reuerse the doome of death,
And let me say (that neuer wept before)
My teares are now prepailling Oratours.

Lucius. Oh noble father you lament in vaine,
The Tribunes heare you not, no man is by,
And you recount your sorrowes to a stone.

Titus. Ah *Lucius* for thy brothers let me plead,
Graue *Tribunes*, once more I intreat of you.

Lucius. My gracious Lord, no Tribune heares you speak.

Titus. Why tis no matter man, if they did heare
They would not marke me, or if they did marke,
All bootlesse vnto them.

Therefore I tell my sorrowes bootles to the stones,
Who though they cannot answere my distresse,
Yet in some sort they are better then the Tribunes,
For that they will not intercept my tale:
When I doe weepe, they humbly at my feete,
Receiue my teares, and seeme to weepe with me,
And were they but attired in graue weedes,
Rome could afford no Tribune like to these.

A

of *Titus Andronicus*;

A stone is soft as waxe, *Tribunes* more hard then stones:
A stone is silent, and offendeth not,
And *Tribunes* with their tongues doomemen to death.
But wherefore standst thou with thy weapon drawne?

Lucius. To rescue my two brothers from their death,
For which attempt the Iudges haue pronounst
My euerlasting doome of banishment.

Titus. O happy man, they haue befriended thee:
Why foolish *Lucius*, dost thou not perceauē
That Rome is but a wildernes of Tigers?
Tigers must prey, and Rome affords no prey
But me and mine: how happy art thou then,
From these deuourers to be banished?
But who comes with our brother *Marcus* heere?

Enter Marcus and Lavinia.

Marcus. *Titus*, prepare thy noble eyes to weepe,
Or if not so, thy noble heart to breake:
I bring consuming sorrow to thine age.

Titus. Will it consume me? Let me see it then,

Marc. This was thy daughter,

Titus. Why *Marcus* so she is.

Lucius. Ay me, this object kills me.

Titus. Faint-hearted boy, arise and looke vpon her,
Speake *Lavinia*, what accursed hand,
Hath made thee handlesse in thy Fathers sight?
What foole hath added water to the Sea?
Or brought a faggot to bright burning Troy?
My griefe was at the height before thou camst,
And now like *Nylus* it disdaineth bounds:
Giue me a sword Ile chop off my hands too,
For they haue fought for Rome, and all in vaine:
And they haue nurst this woe, in feeding life:
In boorelesse prayer haue they bene held vp,
And they haue seru'd me to effectlesse vse.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Now all the service I require of them,
Is that the one will helpe to cure the other?
Tis well *Lavinia* that thou hast no hands,
For hands to do Rome service, is but vaine.

Lucius. Speake gentle sister who hath marterd thee?

Marcus. O that delightfull engine of her thoughts,
That blabd them with such pleasing eloquence,
Is torne from forth that pretty hollow cage,
Where like a sweet mellodious bird it sung,
Sweet varied notes inchaunting euery care.

Lucius. Oh say thou for her, who hath done this deede?

Marc. Oh thus I found her straying in the Parke,
Seeking to hide herselfe as doth the Deare
That hath receaude some vnrecuring wound.

Titus. It was my Deare, and he that wounded her,
Hath hurt me more then had he kild me dead:

For now I stand as one vpon a Rock,
Inuironed with a wildernes of Sea,
Whomarkes the waxing tide, grow waue by waue,
Expecting ever when some enuious surge,
Will in his brinish bowels swallow him.

This way to death my wretched sonnes are gone,
Heere stands my other sonne, a banisht man,
And heere my brother weeping at my woes,
But that which giues my soule the greatest spurne,
Is deere *Lavinia*, deerer then my soule.

Had I but seene thy picture in this plight,
It would haue madded me: what shall I doe,
Nowe I beholde thy liuely body so?
Thou hast no hands to wipe away thy teares,
Nor tongue to tell me who hath marterd thee:
Thy husband he is dead and for his death
Thy brothers are condemnde, and dead by this.
Looke *Marcus*, ah looke *Lucius* looke on her,

When

of *Titus Andronicus*.

When I did name her brothers, then fresh teares
Stood on her cheekes, as doth the honny dew,
Vpon a gathred Lillie almost withered. (husband,

Marc. Perchance she weepes because they kild her
Perchance because she knowes him innocent.

Titus. If they did kill thy husband then be ioyfull,
Because the law hath tane reuenge on them.
No, no, they would not doe so foule a deede,
Witnes the sorrow that their sister makes.

Gentle *Lavinia* let me kisse thy lips,
Or make some signe how I may do thee ease;
Shall thy good Vncle, and thy brother *Lucius*,
And thou and I sit round about some Fountaine,
Looking all downewards to behold our cheekes
How they are staine in meadows yet not dry,
With miery slime left on them by a flood?
And in the Fountaine shall we gaze so long,
Till the fresh taste be taken from that cleerenes,
And made a brine pit with our bitter teares?
Or shall we cut away our hands like thine?
Or shall we bite our tongues, and in dumbe shewes
Passe the remainder of our hatefull daies?
What shall we doe? let vs that haue our tongues
Plot some deuise of further misery
To make vs wondred at in time to come.

Luci. Sweet father cease your teares, for at your grieve
See how my wretched sister sobs and weeps.

Mart. Patience deere Neece, good *Titus* drie thine eyes.

Titus. Ah *Marcus*, *Marcus*, Brother well I wote,
Thy napkin cannot drinke a teare of mine,
For thou poore man hast drown'd it with thine owne.

Luci. Ah my *Lavinia* I will wipe thy cheekes.

Titus. Mark *Marcus* marke, I vnderstand her signes,
Had she a tongue to speake, now would she say

That

The most lamentable Tragedie

That to her brother which I said to thee.
His Napkin with her true teares all bewet,
Can do no seruice on her sorrowfull cheekes.
Oh what a simpathy of woe is this!
As farre from helpe as Limbo is from blisse.

Enter Aron the Moore alone.

Moore. *Titus Andronicus*, my Lord the Emperour,
Sends thee this word, that if thou loue thy sonnes,
Let *Marcus*, *Lucius*, or thy selfe old *Titus*,
Or any one of you, chop off your hand,
And send it to the King, he for the same,
Will send thee hither both thy sonnes aliue,
And that shall be the raunsome for their fault.

Titus. Oh greacious Emperour, oh gentle *Aron*,
Did euer Ranen sing so like a Larke,
That giues sweet tydings of the Sunnes vprise?
With all my hart, Ile send the Emperour my hand,
Good *Aron* wilt thou help to chop it off?

Lucius. Stay Father, for that noble hand of thine,
That hath throwne downe so many enemies,
Shall not be sent: my hand will serue the turne,
My youth can better spare my blood then you,
And therefore mine shall saue my brothers liues.

Marc. Which of your hands hath not defended Rome,
And reard aloft the bloody Battleaxe,
Wrighting destruction on the enemies Castle?
Oh none of both but are of high desert:
My hand hath bene but idle, let it serue
To raunsome my two nephewes from their death,
Then haue I kept it to a worthy end.

Moore. Nay come agree whose hand shall goe along,
For feare they die before their pardon come.

Marcus. My hand shall goe.

Lucius. By heauen it shall not goe.

Titus.

of Titus Andronicus.

Titus. Sirs strive no more, such withred hearbs as these
Are meete for plucking vp, and therefore mine.

Lucius. Sweet Father, if I shall be thought thy sonne,
Let me redeeme my brothers both from death.

Marcus. And for our fathers sake, and mothers care,
Now let me show a brothers loue to thee.

Titus. Agree betweene you, I will spare my hand.

Lucius. Then Ile goe fetch an Axe.

Marc. But I will vse the Axe.

Exeunt.

Titus. Come hither *Aron*, Ile deceiue them both,
Lend me thy hand, and I will giue thee mine.

Moore. If that be cald deceit, I will be honest,
And neuer whilst I liue deceiue men so :

But Ile deceiue you in another sort,
And that youle say ere halfe an houre passe.

Hee cuts off Titus hand.

Enter Lucius and Marcus againe.

Titus. Now stay your strife, what shall be is dispatcht:

Good *Aron* giue his Maiestie my hand,
Tell him it was a hand that warded him
From thousand dangers: bid him bury it:
More hath it merited: That let it haue.

As for my sonnes, say I account of them,
Asiewels purchast at an easie price,
And yet deere too, because I bought mine owne.

Aron. I goe *Andronicus*, and for thy hand,
Looke by and by to haue thy sonnes with thee.
Their heads I meane: Oh how this villany,
Doth fat me with the very thoughts of it.
Let fooles doe good, and faire men call for grace,
Aron will haue his soule blacke like his face,

F

Exit.

Titus

The most lamentable Tragedie

Titus. O heere I lift this one hand vp to heauen,
And bow this feeble ruine to the earth,
If any power pitties wretched teares,
To that I call: what would thou kneele with me?
Doe then deare heart, for heauen shall heare our prayers,
Or with our sighs wee breath the welkin dimme,
And staine the sunne with fogge as sometime cloudes,
When they do hug him in their melting bosomes.

Marcus. Oh brother speake with possibilities,
And do not breake into these deepe extreames.

Titus. Is not my sorrow deepe, hauing no bottome?
Then be my passions bottomlesse with them.

Marcus. But yet let reason governethy lament.

Titus. If there were reason for these miseries,
Then into limits could I binde my woes:
When heauen doth weepe, doth not the earth oreflow?
If the windes rage, doth not the sea wax mad,
Threatning the welkin with his bigswolne face?
And wilt thou haue a reason for this coile?
I am the sea. Harke how her sighes doe flow:
Shee is the weeping welkin, I the earth:
Then must my Sea be moued with her sighes,
Then must my earth with her continuall teares,
Become a deluge: overflowed and drowned:
For why, my bowels cannot hide her woes,
But like a drunkard must I vomit them.
Then giue me leaue, for loosers will haue leaue,
To ease their stomackes with their bitter tongues.

Enter a messenger with two heads and a hand.

Messen. Worthy *Andronicus*, ill art thou repaid,
For that good hand thou sentst the Emperour:
Heere are the heads of thy two noble sonnes,

And

of Titus Andronicus.

And heeres thy hand in scorne to thee sent backe :
Thy griefes their sports: Thy resolution mockt :
That woe is me to thinke vpon thy woes,
More then remembrance of my fathers death.

Exit.

Marc. Now let hot *Aetna* coole in *Cicilie*,
And be my hart an euer-burning hell :
These miseries are more then may be borne.
To weepe with them that weepe, doth ease some deale,
But sorrow flouted at, is double death.

Luci. Ah that this sight should make so deepe a wound,
And yet detested life not shrinke thereat :
That euer death should let life beare his name,
Where life hath no more interest but to breath.

Marc. Alas poore hart that kisse is comfortlesse,
As frozen water to a starued snake.

Titus. When will this fearefull slumber haue an end?

Mar. Now farewell flatterie, die *Andronicus*,
Thou dost not slumber, see thy two sonnes heads;
Thy warlike hand, thy mangled daughter heere ?
Thy other banisht sonne with this deere sight
Strucke pale and bloodlesse, and thy brother I,
Even like a stony Image, cold and numme.
Ah now no more will I controule my griefes,
Rent of thy siluer haire, thy other hand
Gnawing with thy teeth, and be this dismall sight
The closing vp of our most wretched eyes:
Now is a time to storme, why art thou still ?

Titus. Ha, ha, ha.

Marc. Why dost thou laugh? it fits not with this houre.

Titus. Why I haue not another teare to shed :
Besides, this sorrow is an enemy,
And would vsurpe vpon my watry eyes,
And make them blinde with tributarie teares.
Then which way shall I finde Reuenges Cause?

The most lamentable Tragedie

For these two heads doe seeme to speake to me,
And threat me, I shall neuer come to blisse,
Till all these mischiefes be returnd againe,
Euen in their throats that haue committed them.
Come let me see what taske I haue to doe,
You heauie people, circle me about,
That I may turne me to each one of you,
And sweare vnto my soule to right your wrongs,
The vow is made, come Brother take a head,
And in this hand the other will I beare.
And *Launius* thou shalt be imployd in these Armes,
Beare thou my hand sweet wench betweene thy teeth:
As for thee boy, goe get thee from my sight,
Thou art an Exile, and thou must not stay,
Hie to the *Gothes*, and raise an army there,
And if you loue me, as I thinke you doe,
Let's kisse and part, for we haue much to doe.

Exeunt.

Lucius. Farwell *Andronicus* my noble Father:
The wofulst man that euer liued in Rome:
Farewell proud Rome till *Lucius* come againe,
He loues his pledges dearer then his life:
Farewell *Launus* my noble sister,
O would thou wert as thou to fore hast bene,
But now nor *Lucius* nor *Launius* liues
But in obliuion and hatefull griefes:
If *Lucius* liue he will requite your wrongs,
And make proud *Saturnine* and his Empresse
Beg at the gates like *Tarquin* and his Queene.
Now will I to the *Gothes* and raise a power,
To be reuengd on Rome and *Saturnine*.

Exit Lucius.

Enter.

of Titus Andronicus.

*Enter Lucius some and Lavinia running after him, and
the boy flies from her with his bookes under
his arms.*

Enter Titus and Marcus.

Puer. Helpe Grandfier helpe, my Aunt Lavinia,
Followes me euery where I know not why.
Good Vncle Marcus see how swift she comes,
Alas sweet Aunt, I know not what you meane.

Marcus. Stand by me Lucius, doe not feare thine aunt.

Titus. She loues thee boy too well to do thee harme.

Puer. I when my father was in Rome she did.

Marcus. What meanes my Neece Lavinia by these signes?

Titus. Feare her not Lucius somewhat doth she meane.

See Lucius see, how much she makes of thee:

Some whether would she haue thee goe with her.

Ah boy, *Cornelia* neuer with more care

Red to her sonnes then she hath red to thee,

Sweet Poetry, and Tullies Oratour :

Canst thou not gesse wherefore she plies thee thus?

Puer. My Lord I know not I, nor can I gesse,

Vnlesse some fit or frenzie do possesse her:

For I haue heard my Grandfier say full oft,

Extremities of griefes would make men mad.

And I haue red that *Hecuba* of Troy,

Ran mad through sorrow, that made me to feare

Although my Lord, I know my noble Aunt,

Loues me as deare as ere my mother did,

And would not but in fury fright my youth,

Which made me downe to throw my bookes and flie,

Causles perhaps, but pardon me sweet Aunt,

And Madam, if my Vncle Marcus goe,

The most lamentable Tragedie

I will most willingly attend your Ladyship.

Marc. Lucius I will.

Titus. How now *Lavinia*, *Marcus* what meanest this?
Some booke there is that she desires to see:
Which is it girle of these? open them boy,
But thou art deeper read and better skild,
Come and take choise of all my Library,
And so beguile thy sorrow, till the heauens;
Reueale the damnd contriuer of this deede.
Why lifts she vp her armes in sequence thus?

Marc. I thinke she meanes that there was more then one
Confederate in the fact, I more there was:
Or else to heauen she heaues them for reuenge.

Titus. *Lucius* what booke is that she tosseth so?
Puer. Grandfier tis Ouids *Metamorphosis*,
My mother gaue it me.

Marc. For loue of her thats gone,
Perhaps she culd it from among the rest.

Titus. Soft, so busily she turnes the leaues,
Helpe her, what would she finde? *Lavinia* shall I read?
This is the tragicke tale of *Philomel*,
And treates of *Terens* treason and his rape,
And rape I feare was roote of thine annoy.

Marc. See brother see note how she quotes the leaues;

Titus. *Lavinia*, wert thou thus surpriz'd sweet girle,
Rauisht and wrong'd as *Philomela* was,
Forced in the ruthlesse, vast, and gloomy woods?
See, see, I such a place there is where we did hunt,
(O had we neuer, neuer hunted there)
Pattern'd by that the Poet heere describes,
By nature made for murders and for rapes.

Marc. O why should nature build so foule a den,
Vnlesse the Gods delight in tragedies?

Tit. Giue signes sweet girle for heere are none but friends.
What

of *Titus Andronicus*,

What *Romane* Lord it was durst do the deede?
Or slonke not *Saturnine*, as *Tarquin* erst,
That left the Campe to sinne in *Lucrece* bed.

Marc. Sit downe sweet Neece, brother sit downe by me,
Appollo, *Pallas*, *Ioue*, or *Mercury*,
Inspire me that I may this treason finde.
My Lord looke heere, looke heere *Lavinia*.

*He writes his Name with his staffe, and guides it
with feete and mouth.*

This sandie plot is plaine, guide if thou canst
This after me, I haue writ my name,
Without the helpe of any hand at all.
Curst be that hart that forst vs to this shift:
Write thou good Neece, and heere display at last,
What God will haue discovered for reuenge,
Heauen guide thy pen to print thy sorrowes plaine;
That we may know the traytors and the truth.

*She takes the staffe in her mouth, and guides it with her
stumpes, and writes.*

Titus. Oh doe ye read my Lord what she hath writ,
Stuprum, Chiron, Demetrius.

Marc. What, what, the lustfull sonnes of *Tamora*,
Performers of this hainous bloody deede?

Titus. *Magni Dominator poli,*
Tam lentus audis scelera, tam lentus vides?

Marc. Oh calme thee gentle Lord, although I know
There is enough written vpon this earth,
To stirre a mutenie in the mildest thoughts,
And arme the mindes of infants to exclaymes.
My Lord kneele downe with me, *Lavinia* kneele,

And

The most lamentable Tragedie

And kneele sweete boy, the Romaine Hectors hope,
And swear with me, as with the wofull feere,
And father of that chaste dishonoured Dame,
Lord *Innius Brutus* swear for *Lucrece* rape,
That we will prosecute by good aduise
Mortall reuenge ypon these trayterous Gothes,
And see their blood, or die with this reproch.

Titus. Tis sure enough, and you knew how,
But if you hunt these Beare whelpes then beware,
The Dam will wake, and if she winde you once,
Shee's with the Lyon deeply still in league,
And lulls him whilst she playeth on her back.
And when he sleepes will she do what she list.
You are a young huntsman *Marcus*, let it alone,
And come I will goe get a leafe of brasse,
And with a gad of Steele will write these words,
And lay it by: the angry Northerne winde,
Will blow these sands like *Sibels* leaues abroad,
And wheres your lesson then, boy what say you?

Puer I say my Lord, that if I were a man,
Their mothers bed-chamber should not be safe,
For these bad bond-men to the yoake of Rome.

Marc. I thats my boy, thy father hath full oft,
For his vngratefull country done the like.

Puer. And Vnckle so will I, and if I liue.

Titus. Come goe with me into mine Armorie,
Lucius Ile fit thee, and withall, my boy
Shall carry from me to the Empreffe sonnes,
Presents that I intend to send them both,
Come, come, thoult do thy messlage, wilt thou not?

Puer. I with my dagger in their bosomes Grandfier.

Titus. No boy not so, Ile teach thee another course,
Lauinia come, *Marcus* looke to my house,
Lucius and Ile goe braue it at the Court.

of *Titus Andronicus*.

Imarry will we fir, and wee be waited on. *Exeunt*

Marc. O heauens! can you heare a good man grone
And not relent; or not compassion him?

Marcus attend him in his extasie,
That hath more scars offorrow in his hart,
Then foe-mens markes vpon his battred shield,
But yet so iust, that he will not reuenge,
Reuenge the heauens for old *Andronicus*. *Exit*

*Enter Aron, Chiron and Demetrius at one dore, and at another
dore young Lucius and another, with a bundle of
weapons, and verses writ vpon them.*

Chiron. *Demetrius* heeres the sonne of *Lucius*,
He hath some message to deliuer vs.

Aron. I some mad message from his mad Grandfather.

Puer. My Lords, with all the humblenes I may,
I greeete your honours from *Andronicus*,
And pray the Romane Gods confound you both.

Deme. Gramercie louely *Lucius*, what's the newes?

Puer. That you are both decipherd, that's the newes,
For villaines markt with rape. May it please you,
My Grandfier well aduise hath sent by me,

The goodliest weapons of his Armoric,
To gratifie your honourable youth
The hope of Rome, for so he bad me say:

And so I do, and with his gifts present
Your Lordships, when euer you haue neede,
You may be armed and appointed well,

And so I leaue you both: like bloody villaines. *Exit.*

Deme. What's heere? a scrole, and written round about?
Let's see,

Inger vitæ s'clorisque purus, non eget man'y iaculis nec arcus.

Chiron. 'Tis a verse in *Horace*, I know it well.

The most lamentable Tragedie

I read it in the Grammer long agoe.

Moore I lost a verse in *Horace*, right, you haue it,
Now what a thing it is to be an Ass.

Heeres no sound iest, the old man hath found their gilt,
And sends the weapons wrapt about with lines,
That wound (beyond their feeling) to the quick:
But were our witty *Empresse* well a foote,
She would applaud *Andronicus* conceit,
But let her rest in her vntrest a while.

And now young Lords, wast not a happy farre,
Led vs to Rome strangers, and more then so
Captiues to be aduanced to this height?

It did me good before the Pallace gate,
To braue the Tribune in his brothers hearing.

Demet. But me more good to see so great a Lord,
Basely insinuate, and send vs gifts.

Moore Had he not reason Lord *Demetrius*,
Did you not vse his daughter very friendly?

Demet. I would we had a thousand *Romane* Dames
At such a bay, by turne to serue our lust.

Chiron. A charitable wish and full of loue.

Moore. Heere lacks but your mother for to say Amen.

Chiron. And that would shee fortwenty thousand more.

Demet. Come let vs goe and pray to all the Gods
For our beloued mother in her paines.

Moore. Pray to the devils, the gods haue giuen vs ouer.

Trumpets sound.

Dem. Why do the Emperors trumpets flourish thus?

Chiron. Belike forioy the Emperour hath a sonne.

Deme. Soft, who comes heere?

Enter Nurse with a blacke a Moore childe.

Nur. Good morrow Lords, O tell me did you see *Aron* the
Aron. Well, more or lesse, or nere a whit at all, (*Moore*
Heere

of Titus Andronicus,

Heere *Aron* is, and what with *Aron* now?

Nurse. Oh gentle *Aron*, we are all vndone,
Now helpe, or woe betide thee euermore.

Aron. Why what a catterwalling dost thou keepe,
What dost thou wrap and fumble in thine armes?

Nurse. O that which I would hide from heauens eye,
Our Empresse shame, and stately Romes disgrace,
She is deliuered Lords, she is deliuered.

Aron. To whom?

Nurse. I meane she is brought a bed.

Aron. Wel God giue her good rest, what hath he sent her?

Nurse. A deuill.

Aron. Why then she is the Devils Dam, a ioyfull issue,

Nurse. A ioyles, dismall, blacke, and sorrowfull issue,
Heere is the babe as loathsome as a toad,
Amongst the fairest breeders of our clime,
The Empresse sends it thee, thy stampe, thy seale,
And bids thee christen it with thy daggers point.

Aron. Zounds ye whore, is black so base a hue?
Sweet blows, you are a beautilous blossome sure.

Deme. Villaine what hast thou done?

Aron. That which thou canst not vndoe.

Chiron. Thou hast vndone our mother.

Aron. Villaine, I haue done thy mother.

Demet. And therein hellish dog thou hast vndone,
Woe to her chance, and dambd her loathed choyce,
Accurst the offspring of so foule a fiend.

Chiron. It shall not liue.

Aron. It shall not die.

Nurse. *Aron* it must, the mother wils it so.

Aron. What must it *Nurse*? then let no man but I,
Doe execution on my flesh and blood.

Deme. Ile broach the tadpole on my Rapiers point,
Nurse giue it me, my sword shall soone dispatch it.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Aron. Sooner this sword shall plow thy howels vp.
 Stay murderous villaines, will you kill your brother?
 Now by the burning tapers of the skie,
 That shone so brightly when this boy was got,
 He dies vpon my Semitars sharpe point,
 That touches this my first borne sonne and heire.
 I tell you younglings, not *Enceladus*,
 With all his threatning band of *Typhons* broode,
 Nor great *Achides*, nor the God of warre,
 Shall ceaze this prey out of his fathers hands:
 What, what, ye sanguine shallow harted boves,
 Yee white-limbde walls, ye ale-houfe painted signes,
 Cole-blacke is better then another hue,
 In that it scornes to beare another hue:
 For all the water in the Ocean,
 Can neuer turne the Swans blacke legs to white,
 Although she laue them hourelly in the flood:
 Tell the Empresse from me I am of age
 To keepe mine owne, excuse it how she can.
Demet. Wilt thou betray thy noble mistris thus?
Aron. My mistris is my mistris, this my selfe,
 The vigour, and the picture of my youth:
 This before all the world do I preferre,
 This mauer all the world will I keepe safe,
 Or some of you shall smooke for it in Rome.

Demet. By this our mother is for euer shamed.

Chiron. Rome will despise her for this foule escape.

Nurse. The Emperour in his rage will loome her death.

Chiron. I blush to thinke vpon this ignomie.

Aron. Why theres the priuiledge your beauty beares:
 Fie trecherous hue, that will betray with blushing
 The close enacts and counsels of the hart:
 Heeres a young lad fram'd of another leere,
 Looke how the blacke slaue smiles vpon the father,

As

o Titus Andronicus

As who should say, old Lad I am thine owne;
He is your brother Lords, sensibly fed
Of that selfe blood that first gaue life to you,
And from that wombe where you imprisoned were,
He is enfranchised and come to light:
Nay he is your brother by the surer side,
Although my seale be stamped in his face.

Nurse. Aron what shall I say vnto the Empresse?

Demet. Advise thee Aron, what is to be done,
And we will all subscribe to thy advise:
Sawe thou the childe so we may all be safe.

Aron. Then sit we downe and let vs all consult.
My sonne and I will haue the winde of you:
Keepe there, now take at pleasure of your safety.

Demet. How many women saw this childe of his?

Aron. Why so braue Lords, when we ioyne in league
I am a Land be, but if you braue the *Moore*,
The chafed Bore, the mountaine Lyonesse,
The Ocean swells not so as Aron stormes:
But say againe, how many saw the childe?

Nurse. *Cornelia*, the midwife and my selfe,
And no one else but the deliuered Empresse.

Aron. The Empress, the Midwife, and your selfe,
Two may keepe counsell when the thirds away:
Go to the Empresse, tell her this I said, *He kills her.*
Weeke, weeke, so cries a Pigge prepared to the spit.

Demet. What meanst thou Aron, wherefore didst thou this

Aron. O Lord sir, tis a deed of pollicie,
Shall she liue to betray this gilt of ours?
A long tongue'd babbling Gossip, no Lords no:
And now be it knowne to you my foill intent.
Not farre, one *Mulitens* my Country-man
His wife but yesternight was brought to bed,
His childe is like to her, faire as you are:

The most lamentable Tragedie

Give packe with him, and give the mother gold,
And tell them both the circumstance of all,
And how by this their childe shall be aduunst,
And be receiued for the Emperours heyre,
And substituted in the place of mine,
To calme this tempest whirling in the Court,
And let the Emperour dandle him for his owne.
Harkeye Lords, ye see I haue giuen her phisick,
And you must needes bestow her funerall,
The fields are neere, and you are gallant Groomes:
This done, see that you take no longer daies
But send the Midwife presently to me.
The Midwife and the Nurse well made away;
Then let the Ladies tattle what they please.

Chiron. Aron I see thou wilt not trust the ayre with secrets.

Deme. For this care of *Tamora*,

Herselfe and hers are highly bound to thee. *Exeunt*

Aron. Now to the Gothes, as swift as swallow flies.

There to dispose this treasure in mine armes,
And secretly to greete the Empresse friends:
Come on you thick-lipt-slaue, Ile beare you hence,
For it is you that puts vs to our shifts:
Ile make you feed on berries, and on rootes,
And feede on curds and whay, and sucke the Goate,
And cabbin in a Caue, and bring you vp
To be a warriour, and commaund a Campe. *Exit.*

*Enter Titus, old Marcus, young Lucius, and other gentlemen
with bowes, and Titus beares the arrowes with
Letters on the ends of them.*

Titus. Come *Marcus*, come, kinsmen this is the way,
Sir boy let me see your archerie,
Looke yce draw home enough and tis there straight,

Terras

of *Titus Andronicus*.

Terras Aſtreareliquir, be you remembered *Marcus*.
Shees gone, ſhees fled, firſt take you to your tooles,
You Coſens ſhall goe ſound the Ocean,
And caſt your nets, happily you may finde her in the ſea,
Yet theres as little iuſtice as at Land:

No *Publius* and *Sempronius*, you muſt doe it,
Tis you muſt dig with mattocke, and with ſpade,
And pierce the inmoſt center of the earth,
Then when you come to *Plinios* Region,
I pray you deliuer him this petition,
Tell him it is for iuſtice and for aide,
And that it comes from old *Andronicus*,
Shaken with ſorrowes in vngatefull Rome.
Ah Rome, we'll, well, I made thee miſerable,
What time I threw the peoples ſuffrages
On him that thus doth tyrannize ore me.
Goe get you gone, and pray be carefull all,
And leaue you not a man of warre vnſearcht,
This wicked Emperour may haue ſhipt her hence,
And kinſmen then we may goe pipe for iuſtice,

Marc. O *Publius* is not this a heauie caſe
To ſee thy noble Vncle thus diſtract?

Publ. Therefore my Lcords it highly vs concernes,
By day and night attend him carefully:
And feede his humour kindly as we may,
Till time beget ſome carefull remedie.

Marcus. Kinſmen, his ſorrowes are paſt remedie.
Ioyne with the Gothes, and with reuengefull warre,
Take wreake on Rome for this ingratitude,
And vengeance on the traytor *Saturnine*.

Titus. *Publius* how now, how now my Maiſters,
What haue you met with her?

Publ. No my good Lord, but *Pluto* ſends you word,
If you will haue reuenge from hell you ſhall,

Marrie

The most lamentable Tragedie

Marrie for Iustice she is so imployd,
He thinks with *Ioue* in heauen, or some where else,
So that perforce you must needs stay a time.

Titus. He doth me wrong to feed me with delays,
He diue into the burning lake below,
And pull her out of *Acaron* by the heeles.

Marcus we are but shrubs, no Cedars we,
No big-bond-men, framd of the Cyclops size,
But metral *Marcus*, Steele to the very backe,
Yet wrung with wrongs more then our backs can beare:
And sith theres no iustice in earth nor hell,
We will sollicite heauen, and moue the Gods,
To send downe Iustice for to wreake our wrongs:
Come to this geare, you are a good Archer *Marcus*.

He giues them the Arrowes.

Ad Iouem, thats for you, here *ad Apollonem*,
Ad Mariem, thats for my selfe,
Here boy to *Pallas*, here to *Mercury*,
To *Saturnine*, to *Caius*, not to *Saturnine*,
You were as good to shoote against the winde.
Too it boy, *Marcus* loose when I bid;
Of my word, I haue written to effect,
Theres not a God left vnfollicited.

Marcus Kinsmen, shoot all your shafts into the Court,
We will afflict the Emperour in his pride.

Titus. Now Maisters draw, oh well said *Lucius*,
Good boy in *Virgoes* lap, giue it *Pallas*.

Marc. My Lord, I aime a mile beyond the Moone
Your letter is with *Iupiter* by this.

Titus. Ha, ha, *Publius*, *Publius*, what hast thou done?
See, see, thou hast shot off one of *Taurus* hornes.

Marcus. This was the sport my Lord, when *Publius* shot,
The Bull being gald, gaue *Aries* such a knocke,
That downe fell both the Rams hornes in the Court,

And

of *Titus Andronicus*.

And who should finde them but the Empresse villaine:—
She laught, and told the Moore he should not choose
But giue them to his maister for a present.

Titus. Why there it goes, God giue your Lordship ioy.

Enter the Clowne with a basket and two Pidgions in it.

Titus. Newes, newes from heauen,
Marcus the poast is come.
Sirra what tydings, haue you any letters?
Shall I haue iustice, what saies *Iupiter*?

Clowne. Ho the libbetmaker, hee sayes that he hath taken them downe againe, for the man must not be hangd till the next weeke.

Titus. But what saies *Iupiter* I aske thee?

Clowne. Alas sir I know not *Iupiter*:
I neuer dranke with him in all my life.

Titus. Why villaine art not thou the Carrier?

Clowne. I of my pidgions sir, nothing els.

Titus. Why, didst thou not come from heauen?

Clowne. From heauen! alas sir, I neuer came there,
God forbid I should be so bold, to presse to heauen in my young dayes.

Why I am going with my pidgions to the tribunall Plebs, to take vp a matter of brawle, betwixt my Vncle, and one of the Emperalls men.

Marcus. Why sir, that is as fit as can be, to serue for your Oration, and let him deliuer the pidgions to the Emperour from you.

Titus. Tell mee can you deliuer an Oration to the Emperour with a grace?

Clowne. Nay truly sir, I could neuer say grace in all my life.

Titus. Sirra come hither, make no more adoe,

H

But

The most lamentable Tragedie

But giue your Pidgions to the Emprour,
By me thou shalt haue iustice at his hands.
Hold, hold, meane while here's money for thy charges,
Giue me pen and inke.

Sirra, can you with a grace deliuer a Supplication?

Clowne. I sir.

Titus. Then here is a supplication for you, and when you come to him, at the first approach you must kneele, then kisse his foote, then deliuer vp your Pidgions, and then look for your reward.

He be at hand sir, see you doe it brauelie.

Clowne. I warrant you sir, let me alone.

Titus. Sirra hast thou a knife? Come let me see it.

Here *Marcus*, fold it in the Oration,
For thou hast made it like an humble Suppliant.

And when thou hast giuen it the Emperour,
Knocke at my dore, and tell me what he sayes.

Clowne. God be with you sir, I will.

Exit.

Titus. Come *Marcus* let vs goe, *Publius* follow me.

Exeunt.

Enter Emperour and Empreffe, and her two sonnes, the Emperour brings the Arrows in his hand that Titus shot at him.

Satur. Why Lords, what wrongs are these? was euer scene
An Emperour in Rome thus ouerborne,
Troubled, confronted thus, and for the extent
Of egall iustice, vsde in such contempt?
My Lords, you know the mightfull Gods,
Howeuer these disturbers of our peace
Buz in the peoples cares, there nought hath past,
But euen with a w against the wilfull sonnes

OF

o' *Titus Andronicus*.

Of old *Andronicus*. And what and if
His sorrowes haue so ouerwhelmde his wits?
Shall we be thus afflicted in his wreaques,
His fits, his frenzie, and his bitternes?
And now he writes to heauen for his redresse,
See heeres to *Ioue*, and this to *Mercury*,
This to *Apollo*, this to the God of warre:
Sweet scrowles to flie about the streets of Rome,
Whats this but Libelling against the Senate,
And blazoning our vniustice every where?
A goodly humour, is it not my Lords?
As who would say, in Rome no iustice were:
But if I liue, his fained extasies
Shall be no shelter to these outrages,
But he and his shall know that iustice liues
In *Saturninus* health, whome if he sleepe,
Heele so awake, as he in fury shall
Cut off the proud'st conspiratour that liues.

Tamora. My gracious Lord, my louely *Saturninus*,
Lord of my life, commaunder of my thoughts,
Calme thee, and beare the faults of *Titus* age,
Th'effects of sorrow for his valiant sonnes,
Whose losse hath pearst him deepe, and scard his hart,
And rather comfort his distressed plight,
Then prosecute the meanest or the best
For these contempts: Why thus it shall become
Hie witted *Tamora* to glose with all:
But *Titus* I haue touch'd thee to the quicke,
Thy life blood out: if *Aron* now bewile,
Then is all safe, the Anchor's in the port.

Enter Clowne.

How now good fellow wouldst thou speake with vs?

Clowne. Yea forsooth, and your Mastership be Emperiall.

H 2

Tamo.

The most lamentable Tragedie

Tamora. Empresse I am, but yonder sits the Emperour.

Clowne. Tis he, God and Saint Stephen giue you good den,
I haue brought you a letter and a couple of pignons heere.

He reads the Letter.

Satur. Goe take him away and hang him presently.

Clowne. How much money must I haue?

Tamora. Come sirra, you must be hanged.

Clowne. Hangd, be Lady then I haue brought vp a neck
to a faire end.

Exit.

Satur. Displeasurefull and intollerable wrongs
Shall I endure this monstrous villany?
I know from whence this same deuise proceedes:
May this be borne, as if his trayterous sonnes,
That did by law formeurther of our brother,
Haue by my meanes bene butchered wrongfully?
Goe dragge the villaine hither by the haire,
Nor age, nor honour, shall shape priuiledge,
For this proud mocke Ile be thy slaughter man,
Sly franricke wretch, that holp't to make me great,
In hope thy selfe should gouerne Rome and me.

Enter Nuntius Emillius.

Satur. What newes with thee *Emillius*?

Emil. Arme my Lords, Rome neuer had more cause,
The Goies haue gathered head, and with a power
Of high resolued men, bent to the spoyle,
They hither march a maine, vnder conduct
Of *Lucius*, sonne to old *Andronicus*
Who threats in course of this reuenge to doe

As

o Titus Andronicus.

As much as euer *Ceriolanus* did.

King Is warlike *Lucius* Generall of the *Gothes*,
These tydings nip me, and I hang the head
As flowers with frost, or grasse beat downe with stormes:
I, now begins our sorrowes to approach,
Tis he the common people loue so much,
My selfe hath often heard them say,
When I haue walked like a private man,
That *Lucius* banishment was wrongfully,
And they haue wisht that *Lucius* were their Emperour.

Tamora. Why should you feare, is not your Citty strong?

King. I but the Citizens fauour *Lucius*,
And will reuolt from me to succour him.

Tamora. *King*, be thy thoughts imperious like thy name.
Is the Sunne dimd, that Gnats do flie in it?

The Eagle suffers little birds to sing,
And is not carefull what they meane thereby,
Knowing that with the shadow of his wings,
He can at pleasure stint their melodie.
Euen so mayest thou the giddy men of Rome,
Then cheare thy spirit, for know thou Emperour,
I will enchaunt the old *Andronicus*,
With words more sweet and yet more dangerous
Then baites to fish, or honny stalkes to sheepe,
When as the one is wounded with the baite,
The other rotted with delicious feede.

King. But he will not entreat his sonne for vs.

Tamor. If *Tamora* entreat him then he will,
For I can smooth and fill his aged eare,
With golden promises, that were his heart
Almost impregnable, his old yeares deafe,
Yet should both eare and hart obey my tongue.
Goethou before to be our Embassadour,
Say that the Emperour requests a parly

The most lamentable Tragedie

Of warlike *Lucius*, and appoint the meeting.

King Emillius doe this message honourably,
And if he stand in hostage for his safety,
Bid him demaund what pledge will please him best.

Emillius. Your bidding shall I doe effectually.

Exit.

Tamora. Now will I to that old *Andronicus*,
And temper him with all the Art I haue,
To plucke proud *Lucius* from the warlike *Gothes*,
And now sweet Emperour be blith againe,
And bury all thy feare in my deuises.

Satur. Then goe successantly and plead to him.

Exeunt.

*Enter Lucius with an Army of Gothes, with
Drum and Souldiers.*

Lucius. Approued warriors, and my faithfull friends,
I haue receaued letters from great Rome,
Which signifie, what hate they beare their Emperour,
And how desirous of our sight they are.
Therefore great Lords be as your titles witnes,
Imperious and impatient of your wrongs,
And wherein Rome hath done you any scathe,
Let him make treble satisfaction.

Goth. Braue slip sprung from the great *Andronicus*,
Whose name was once our terrour, now our comfort,
Whose high exploits and honourable deeds,
Ingratefull Rome requites with foule contempt,
Be bolde in vs, weele follow where thou leadst,
Like stinging Bees in hottest Sommers day,
Led by their maister to the flowred fields,
And be a uengd on cursed *Tamora*:

And.

of Titus Andronicus.

And as he saith, so say we all with him.

Lucius. I humbly thanke him and I thank you all.
But who comes heere led by a lusty Goth?

*Enter a Goth leading of Aron with his child
in his armes.*

Goth. Renowned *Lucius* from our troupes I Iraid,
To gaze vpon a ruinous Monasterie,
And as I earnestly did fixe mine eye
Vpon the wast'd building, suddainely
I heard a childe cry vnderneath a wall:
I made vnto the noyse, when soone I heard,
The crying babe controld with this discourse:
O eace tawny slaue, halfe me, and halfe thy dam,
Did not thy hue bewray whose brat thou art,
Had nature lent thee but thy mothers looke,
Villainethou mightst haue bene an Emperour.
But where the Bull and Cow are both milke white,
They neuer do beget a cole-blacke Calfe:
Peace villaine peace, euen thus he rates the babe,
For I must beare thee to a trusty Goth,
Who when he knowes thou art the Empreffe babe,
Will hold thee dearely for thy mothers sake.
With this my weapon drawne I rusht vpon him,
Surprizd him suddainely, and brought him hither
To vse as you thinke needefull of the man.

Lucius. Oh worthy Goth, this is the incarnate deuill,
That robd *Andronicus* of his good hand:
This is the Pearle that pleas'd your Empreffe eye,
And heeres the base fruit of his burning lust,
Say wall-eyd slaue whether wouldst thou conuay
This growing Image of thy fiendlike face?
Why dost not speake? what deafe, not a word?

A

The most lamentable Tragedie

A halter Souldiers, hang him on this tree,
And by his side his fruit of Bastardie.

Aron. Touch not the boy, he is of Royall blood.

Luci. Too like the Syre for euer being good,
First hang the childe that he may see it sprall,
A sight to vex the fathers soule withall.

Aron. Get me a ladder, *Lucius* saue the childe,
And beare it from me to the Empreffe:
If thou doe this, Ile shew thee wondrous things,
That highly may aduantage thee to heare;
If thou wilt not, befall what may befall,
Ile speake no more but vengeance rot you all.

Lucius. Say on, and if it please me which thou speakest,
Thy childe shall liue, and I will see it nourisht.

Aron. And if it please thee? why assure thee *Lucius*,
Twill vexethy soule to heare what I shall speake:
For I must talke of murders, rapes, and massacres,
Acts of blacke nights, abhominable deeds,
Complots of mischief, treason, villanies
Ruthfull to heare, yet pittiously performd,
And this shall all be buried by my death,
Vlesse thou sweare to me my childe shall liue.

Lucius. Tell on thy minde, I say thy childe shall liue.

Aron. Sweare that he shall, and then I will begin.

Lucius. Who should I sweare by, thou beleuest no God,
That graunted, how canst thou beleue an oath?

Aron. What if I doe not, as indeed I doe not,
Yet for I know thou art religious,
And hast a thing within thee called conscience,
With twenty popish tricks and ceremonies,
Which I haue seene thee carefull to obserue,
Therefore I vrge thy oath, for that I know
An Idiot holds his bauble for a God,
And keepes the oath which by that God he sweares,

To

of *Titus Andronicus*,

To that Ile vrge him: therefore thou shalt vow
By that same God, what God so ere it be
That thou adorest, and hast in reuerence,
To saue my boy, to nourish and bring him vp,
Or else I will discouer nought to thee.

Lucius. Euen by my God I sweare to thee I will.

Aron. First know thou, I begot him on the Emperesse,

Lucius. Oh most insatiate luxurious woman!

Aron. Tut *Lucius*, this was but a deede of charitie,
To that which thou shalt heare of me anon,
Twas her two sonnes that murdered *Bassianus*,
They cut thy sisters tongue and rauisht her,
And cut her hands, and trimd her as thou sawest.

Lucius. O detestable villaine, call'st thou that trimming

Aron. Why she was washt, and cut, and trimd,
And was trim sport for them that had the doing of it,

Lucius. Oh barbarous beastly villaines like thy selfe!

Aron. Indeepe I was their tutor to instruct them,
That coddling spirit had they from their mother,
As sure a carde as euer wonne the set:
That bloody minde I thinke they learnd of me,
As true a dog as euer fought at head:
Well, let my deedes be witnes of my worth,
I traynde thy bretheren to that guilefull hole,
Where the dead corps of *Bassianus* lay:
I wrote the letter that thy Father found,
And hid the gold within the Letter mentioned,
Confederate with the Queene, and her two sonnes.
And what not done, that thou hast cause to rue,
Wherin I had no stroke of mischief in it.
I playd the cheater for thy Fathers hand,
And when I had it drew my selfe apart,
And almost broke my hart with extreame laughter,
I pried me through the creuic of a wall,

I.

When

The most lamentable Tragedie

When for his hand he had his two sonnes heads,
Beheld his teares, and laught so hartily,
That both mine eyes were rainie like to his:
And when I told the Empresse of this sport,
She sounded almost at my pleasing tale,
And for my tidings gaue me twenty kisses.

Goth.

What canst thou say all this, and neuer blush?

Aron.

I like a blacke dogge as the saying is.

Lucius.

Art thou not sorry, for these hainous deedes.

Aron.

I that I had not done a thousand more,
Euen now I curse the day, and yet I thinke
Few come within the compasse of my curse,
Wherein I did not some notorious ill,
As kill a man, or else deuise his death,
Rauish a maid, or plot the way to doe it,
Accuse some innocent, and forswear my selfe,
Set deadly enmity betweene two friends,
Make poore mens cattell breake their necks,
Set fire on barnes and haystackes in the night,
And bid the owners quench them with their teares:
Oft haue I digd vp deadmen from their graues,
And set them vpright at their deere friends doore,
Euen when their sorrowes almost was forgot,
And on their skinnies, as on the bark of trees,
Haue with my knife carued in Romaine letters,

Lec

of *Titus Andronicus*.

Let not your sorrow die, though I am dead.
Tut, I haue done a thousand dreadfull things
As willingly as one would kill a flie,
And nothing grieues me hartily indeede,
But that I cannot doe tenne thousand more.

Lucius. Bring downe the deuill, for he must not die
So sweet a death as hanging presently.

Aron. If there be deuils, would I were a deuill,
To liue and burne in euerlasting fire,
So I might haue your company in hell
But to torment you with my bitter tongue.

Lucius. Sirs stop his mouth, and let him speake no more.

Enter Emilius.

Goth. My Lord there is a Messenger from Rome
Desires to be admitted to your presence.

Lucius. Let him come nere.

Welcome *Emilius*, what's the newes from Rome?

Emill. Lord *Lucius*, and you Princes of the Gothes,
The Romaine Emperour greetes you all by me,
And for he vnderstands you are in Armes,
He craues a parly at your fathers house
Willing you to demaund your hostages,
And they shall be immediately deliuered.

Goth. What saies our Generall?

Lucius. *Emilius*, let the Emperour giue his pledges
Vnto my Father, and my Vncle *Marcus*,
And we will come: march away.

Exeunt.

Enter Tamora, and her two sonnes disguised.

Tamora. Thus in this strange and sad habilliament,
I will encounter with *Andronicus*,

The most lamentable Tragedie

And say, I am reuenge sent from below,
To ioyne with him and right his hainous wrongs,
Knocke at his study where they say he keeps,
To ruminate strange plots of diere Reuenge,
Tell him Reuenge is come to ioyne with him,
And worke confusion on his enemies.

They knocke and Titus opens his studie dore.

Titus. Who doth molest my contemplation?
Is it your tricke to make me ope the dore,
That so my sad decrees may flie away,
And all my studie be to no effect?
You are deceau'd, for what I meane to doe,
See heere in bloody lines I haue set downe,
And what is written shall be executed.

Tamora. *Titus,* I am come to talke with thee,

Titus. No not a word; how can I grace my talke,
Wanting a hand to giue that accord,
Thou hast the ods of me; therefore no more. (me

Tamora. If thou didst know me thou wouldst talke with

Titus. I am not mad, I know thee well enough,
Witnes this wretched stump, witnes these crimson lines,
Witnes these trenches made by griefe and care,
Witnes the tyring day and heauie night,
Witnes all sorrow that I know thee well
For our proud Empresse, mighty *Tamora*:
Is not thy comming for my other hand?

Tamora. Know thou sad man, I am not *Tamora*,
She is thy enemy, and I thy friend,
I am Reuenge sent from th'internall Kingdome,
To ease the grawing vulture of thy minde,
By working wreakefull vengeance on thy foes:

Come

of Titus Andronicus.

Come downe and welcōme me to this worlds light,
Conferre with me of murder and of death,
There's not a hollow Caue or lurking place,
No vast obscurity or misty vale,
Where bloody murth' or detested rape,
Can couch for feare but I will finde them out,
And in their eares tell them my dreadfull name,
Reuenge, which makes the foule offenders quake.

Titus. Art thou Reuenge, and art thou sent to me,
To be a torment to mine enemies?

Tamora. I am, therefore come downe and welcōme me.

Titus. Doe me some seruice ere I come to thee,
Loe by thy side where Rape and Murder stands,
Now giue some surance that thou art Reuenge,
Stab them or teare them on thy Chariot wheelles,
And then Ile come and be thy Waggoner,
And whirle along with thee about the Globes.
Provide thee two proper palfreies, as blacke as Iet,
To hale thy vengefull Waggon swift away,
And finde out murder in their guilty cares.
And when thy Car is loaden with their heads,
I will dismount, and by the Waggon wheele,
Trot like a seruile footeman all day long,
Euen from *Epeons* rising in the East,
Vntill his very downefall in the Sea.
And day by day ile doe this heavy taske,
So thou destroy Rapine and Murder there.

Tamora. These are my ministers and come with me.

Titus. Are them thy ministers, what are they call'd?

Tamora. Rape and Murder, therefore called so,
Cause they take vengeance of such kinde of men.

Titus. Good Lord how like the Empresse Sonnes they are
And you the Empresse: but we worldly men
Haue miserable mad mistaking eyes:

The most lamentable Tragedie

O sweet Reuenge now doe I come to thee,
And if one armes imbracement will content thee,
I will imbrace thee in it by and by.

Tamora. This closing with him fits his Lunacie,
What ere I forge to feede his braine-sicke fits,
Doe you vphold, and maintaine in your speeches,
For now he firmly takes me for Reuenge,
And being credulous in this mad thought,
He make him send for *Lucius* his sonne,
And whilst I at a banquet hold him sure,
He finde some cunning practise out of hand
To scatter and disperse the giddie Gothes,
Or at the least make them his enemies:
See heere he comes, and I must ply my theame.

Titus. Long haue I bene forlorne, and all for thee,
Welcome dread fury to my woefull house,
Rapine and Murther you are welcome too,
How like the Empresse and her sonnes you are,
Well are you fitted, had you but a Moore,
Could not all hell affoord you such a deuill?
For well I wote the Empresse neuer wags
But in her company there is a Moore,
And would you represent our Queene aright,
It were conuenient you had such a deuill:
But welcome as you are, what shall we doe?

Tamora. What wouldst thou haue vs doe *Andronicus*?

Deme. Show me a murderer He deale with him.

Chiron. Show me a villaine that hath done a rape,
And I am sent to be reuengd on him,

Tamora. Show me a thousand that haue done thee wrong,
And I will be reuenged on them all.

Titus. Looke round about the wicked streets of Rome,
And when thou findest a man that's like thy selfe,
Good murder stab him, hee's a murderer.

Goe

of *Titus Andronicus*.

Goe thou with him, and when it is thy hap
To finde another that is like to thee,
Good Rapine stab him, he is a rauisher,
Goe thou with them, and in the Emperours Court,
There is a Queene attended by a Moore,
Well maist thou know her by thy owne proportion,
For vp and downe she doth resemble thee.
I pray thee doe on them some violent death,
They haue bene violent to me and mine,

Tamora. Well hast thou lessond vs, this shall we doe.
But would it please thee good *Andronicus*,
To send for *Lucius* thy thrice valiant sonne,
Who leades towards Rome a band of warlike Gothes,
And bid him come and banquet at thy house,
When he is heere, euen at thy solemne feast,
I will bring in the Empresse and her sonnes,
The Emperour himselte, and all thy foes,
And at thy mercy shall they stoope and kneele,
And on them shalt thou ease thy angry hart:
What saies *Andronicus* to this deuise?

Enter Marcus.

Titus. *Marcus* my brother, tis sad *Titus* calls,
Goe gentle *Marcus* to thy Nephew *Lucius*,
Thou shalt enquire him out among the Gothes,
Bid him repaire to me, and bring with him
Some of the chiefeest Princes of the Gothes,
Bid him encampe his souldiers where they are,
Tell him the Emperour and the Empresse too
Feast at my house, and he shall feast with them.
This doe thou for my Inue, and so let him,
As he regards his aged Fathers life.

Mar. This will I doe, and scone returne againe:

Tamora

The most lamentable Tragedie

Tamora. Now will I hence about thy busines,
And take my ministers along with me.

Titus. Nay, nay, let rape and murder stay with me,
Or else Ile call my brother backe againe,
And cleave to no reuenge but *Lucins*.

Tam. What say you boyes, will you bide with him,
Whiles I goe tell my Lord the Emperour,
How I haue gouerned our determind iest,
Yeelede to his humour, smooth and speake him faire,
And tarry with him till I turne againe.

Titus. I know them all, though they suppose me mad,
And will ore-reach them in theyr owne deuises,
A payre of cursed hell-hounds and their Dam.

Deme. Madam depart at pleasure, leaue v^r heere.

Tamora. Farewell *Andronicus*, reuenge now goes
To lay a complot to betray thy foes.

Titus. I know thou doost, and sweete reuenge farewell.

Chiron. Tell vs old man, how shall we be imployd,

Titus. But I haue worke enough for you to doe,

Publius come hether, *Caius*, and *Valentine*,

Publius. What is your will?

Titus. Know you these two?

Pub. The Emperesse sonnes I take them, *Chiron*, *Demetrius*.

Titus. Fie *Publius* fie, thou art too much deceaude,
The one is Murder, Rape is the others name,
And therefore binde them gentle *Publius*,
Caius and *Valentine*, lay hands on them,
Oft haue you heard me wish for such an houre,
And now I finde it, therefore binde them sure,
And stop their mouthes if they begin to cry.

Chiron. Villaines forbear, we are the Emperesse sonnes.

Publius. And therefore do we what we are commanded.
Stop close their mouthes; let them not speake a word,
Is he sure bound, looke that you binde them fast.

Enter

of *Titus Andronicus*,

*Enter Titus Andronicus with a knife, and Lavinia
with a Basen.*

Titus. Come, come *Lavinia*, looke, thy foes are bound,
Sirs stop their meouthes, let them not speake to me,
But let them heare what fearefull words I vtter.
Oh villaines, *Chiron* and *Demetrius*,
Here stands the spring whome you haue staine with mud,
This goodly Sommer with your Winter mixt,
You kild her husband, and for that vilde fault,
Two of her brothers were condemn'd to death,
My hand cut off, and made a merry iest,
Both her sweet hands, her tongue, and that more deere
Then hands or tongue, her spotlesse chastity,
In humane traytors, you constraind and forst.
What would you say if I should let you speake?
Villaines for shame you could not beg for grace.
Harke wretches how I meane to martyr you,
This one hand yet is left to cut your throates
Whilst that *Lavinia* tweene her stumps doth hold
The Basen that receaues your guilty blood.
You know your Mother meanes to feast with me,
And calls herselfe Reuenge, and thinkes me mad.
Harke villaines, I will grinde your bones to dust,
And with your blood and it Ile make a paste,
And of the paste a coffin I will reare,
And make two pasties of your shamefull heads,
And bid that strumpet your unhallow'd Dam,
Like to the earth swallow her owne increase.
This is the feast that I haue bid her to,
And this the banquet she shall surfet on,
For worse then *Philomet* you vs'd my daughter,
And worse then *Progne* I will be reuengd,

K

And

The most lamentable Tragedie

And now prepare your throats: *Lavinia* come,
Receave the blood, and when that they are dead,
Let me goe grinde their bones to powder small,
And with this hatefull liquour temper it,
And in that pisse let their vild heads be bakte,
Come, come, be every one officious,
To make this banquet, which I wi h may proue
More sterne and bloody then the Centaures feast.

He cuts their throats.

So now bring them in, for Ile play the Cooke,
And see them ready against their Mother comes.

Exeunt.

Enter Lucius, Marcus, and the Goth.

Lucius. Vnckle *Marcus*, since tis my fathers minde
That I repaire to Rome, I am content.

Goth. And ours with thine befall what Fortune will.

Lucius. Good Vnckle take you in this barbarous *Moore*,
This rauinous Tiger, this accursed deuill,
Let him receave no sustenance, fetter him,
Till he be brought vnto the Emperours face,
For testimony of her foule proceedings:
And see the Ambush of our friends be strong,
I feare the Emperour meanes no good to vs.

Moore. Some deuill whisper curses in mine eare,
And prompt me that my tongue may vtter tosh,
The venemous mallice of my swelling heart.

Lucius. Away in humane dogge, vnnallowed slaue,
Sirs, helpe our vnckle to conuey him in,
The trumpets shew the Emperour is at hand.

*Sound Trumpets, Enter Emperour and Emperesse, with
Tribunes and others.*

King. What, hath the firmament moe sunnes then one?

Lucius,

of *Titus Andronicus*.

Lucius. What bootes it thee to call thy selfe a funne?

Marcus, Romes Emperour and Nephew breake the parle
These quarrels must be quietly debated,
The feast is ready which the carefull *Titus*,
Hath ordained to an honourable end,
For peace, for loue, for league and good to Rome:
Please you therefore draw nie and take your places.

Saius. *Marcus* we will.

*Sound trumpets, enter Titus like a Cooke, placing the meade on
the Table, and Lavinia with a vailc ouer her face.*

Titus. Welcom my gracious Lord, welcom dread Queen
Welcome ye warlike Gothes, welcome *Lucius*,
And welcome all, although the cheere be poore,
Twill fill your stomacks, please you eat of it.

Satur. Why art thou thus attired *Andronicus*?

Titus. Because I would be sure to haue all well,
To entertaine your highnes, and your Empresse.

Tam. We are beholding to you good *Andronicus*,

Titus. And if your highnes knew my heart, you were:
My Lord the Emperour resolue me this,
Was it well done of rash *Virginius*,
To slay his daughter with his owne right hand,
Because she was enforst, staine, and deflowrde?

Satur. It was *Andronicus*.

Titus. Your reason mighty Lord?

Satur. Because the girle should not suruiue her shame,
And by her presence still renew his sorowes.

Titus. A reason mighty, strong, and effectually,
A patterne, president, and liuely warrant,
For me most wretched to performe the like,
Die, die *Lavinia*, and thy shame with thee,
And with thy shame thy Fathers sorrow die. *he kills her.*

Satur. What hast thou done, vnnaturall and vnkinde?

The most lamentable Tragedie

Tit. Kild her for whome my teares haue made me blind.
I am as wofull as *Virgius* was,
And haue a thousand times more cause then he,
To doe this outrage, and it is now done.

King. What was she rauisht? tell who did the deede.

Titus. Wilt please you eat, wilt please your highnes feed?

Tam. Why hast thou flaine thine onely daughter

Titus. Not I, twas *Chiron* and *Demetrius*.

They rauisht her, and cut away her tongue,
And they, twas they, that did her all this wrong.

King. Goe fetch them hether to vs presently,

Titus. Why therethey are both, baked in that pie,
Whereof their mother daintilie hath fed,
Eating the flesh that she herselfe hath bred.

'Tis true, tis true, witnes my kniues sharpe point,

He stabs the Empresse.

Empe. Die franticke wretch for this accursed deede.

Lucius. Can the sonnes eye behold his father bleed?

There's meede for meede, death for a deadly deede.

Marcus. You sad fac'd men, people and sons of Rome,
By vprores seuerd like a flight of fowle,
Scattered by windes and high tempestious gusts,
Oh let me teach you how to knit againe
This scattered corne into one mutuall sheaffe,
These brokenlimbs againe into one body.

Roman Lord. Let Rome herselfe be bane vnto her selfe,
And shee whome mightie kingdomes curse too,
Like a forlorne and desperate cast away,
Doe shamefull execution on her selfe,
But if my frostie signes and chaps of age,
Graue witness of true experience,
Connet indace you to attend my words,
Speake Romes deere friend, as eist our Ancestor,

When

of *Titus Andronicus*.

When with his solemne tongue he did discourse
To loue-sicke Didoes sad attending eare,
The story of that balfeull burning night,
When subtile Greekes surprizd King Priams Troy,
Tell vs what Sinon hath bewicht our eares,
Or who hath brought the fatall engine in
That giues our Troy, our Rome the ciuill wound.
My hart is not compact of flint nor Steele,
Nor can I vtter all our bitter grieve,
But floods of teares will drowne my Oratorie,
And breake my very vttrance euen in the time
When it should moue you to attend me most,
Lending your kind commiseration.
Heere is a Captaine let him tell the tale,
Your harts will throb and weepe to heare him speake.

Lucius. Then noble auditory be it knowne to you,
That cursed *Chiron* and *Demetrius*
Were they that murthered our Emperours brother,
And they it were that raniſhed our ſiſter,
For their fell faults our brothers were beheaded,
Our Fathers teares deſpiſd and baſely couſend,
Of that true hand that fought Romes quarrell out,
And ſent her enemies vnto the graue.
Laſtly my ſelfe vnkindly baniſhed;
The gates ſhut on me and turnd weeping out,
To beg reliefe among Romes enemies,
Who drowned their enmity in my true teares,
And opt their armes to imbrace me as a friend,
and I am the turned forth be it knowne to you,
That haue preſerued her welfare in my blood,
And from her boſome tooke the enemies point,
Sheathing the ſteele in my aduentrous boſe.
Alas you know I am no vaunter I,
My feares can witnes, dumb although they are,

K 3.

That

The most lamentable Tragedie

That my report is iust and full of truth,
But soft, me thinkes I doe digresse too much,
Cytting my worthles praise, Oh pardon me,
For when no friends are by, men praise themselves.

March. Now is my turne to speake: behold this childe,
Of this was *Tamora* deliuered,
The issue of an irreligious *Moore*,
Chiefe Architect and plotter of these woes,
The villaine is aliue in *Titus* house,
And as he is to witnes this is true,
Now iudge what course had *Titus* to reuenge,
These wrongs, vnspeakeable past paciencie,
Or more then any liuing man could beare.
Now you haue heard the truth, what say you Romanes?
Haue we done ought amisse? show vs wherein,
And from the place where you behold vs now,
The poore remainder of *Andronicke*
Will hand in hand all headlong cast vs downe,
And on theragged stones beat forth our braines,
And make a mutwall closure of our house:
Speake Romaines speake, and if you say we shall,
Loe hand in hand *Lucius* and I will fall.

Emilius. Come come thou reuerent man of Rome,
And bring our Emperour gently in thy hand,
Lucius our Emperour for well I know,
The common voyce doe cry it shall be so.

Marcius. *Lucius*, all haile Romes royall Emperour,
Goe goe into old *Titus* sorrowfull house,
And hither hale that misbelieuing *Moore*,
To be adjudgd some direfull slaughtering death,
As punishment for his most wicked life.

Lucius all haile to Romes gracious Gouvernour.

Lucius. Thankes gentle Romaines may I gouerne so,
To heale Romes harmes, and wipe away her woe:

But

of Titus Andronicus.

But gentle people giue me ayme a while,
For nature puts me to a heauie taske,
Stand all aloofe, but Vnckle draw you neere,
To shed obsequious teares vpon this trunk,
Oh take this warme kisse on thy pale cold lips,
These sorrowful drops vpon thy bloud-flaine face,
The last true duties of thy noble sonne.

Marc. Teare for teare, and louing kisse for kisse,
Thy brother *Marcus* tenders on thy lips,
Oh were the summe of these that I should pay,
Countlesse and infinite, yet would I pay them.

Lucius. Come hither boy come, come and learne of vs,
To melt in showers, thy Grandfier lou'd thee well,
Many a time he dauntt thee on his knee,
Sung thee asleepe, his louing breast thy pillow,
Many a matter hath he told to thee,
Meete and agreeing with thine infancie,
In that respect then like a louing childe,
Shed yet some finall drops from thy tender spring,
Because kinde nature doth require it so,
Friends should associate friends in griefe and woe.
Bid him farewell, commit him to the graue,
Doe them that kindnes, and take leaue of them.

Puer. O Grandfier, Grandfire, even with all my hart,
Would I were dead so you did liue againe.
O Lord I cannot speake to him for weeping,
My teares will choake me if I ope my mouth.

Romaine. You sad *Andronicus* haue done with woes,
Giue sentence on this execrable wretch,
That hath bene breeder of these dire euents.

Lucius. Set him breast deepe in earth and famish him
There let him stand and raue and cry for foode,
If any one releecues or pitties him,
For the offence he dies, this is our doome.

Some

The most lamentable Tragedie

Some stay to see him fastned in the earth.

Aron. Ah why should wrath be mute, and fury dumb?
I am no baby I, that with base prayers
I should repent the evils I haue done,
Ten thousand worse then euer yet I did,
Would I performe if I might haue my will,
If one good deed in all my life I did,
I doe repent it from my very soule.

Lucius. Some louing friends conuey the Emperour hence
And giue him buriall in his fathers graue,
My father and *Lavinia* shall forthwith
Be closed in our households monument:
As for that hauous Tiger *Tamora*,
No funerell rite, nor man in mournefull weeds,
No mournefull bell shall ring her buriall.
But throw her forth to beasts and birds to prey;
Her life was beastly and deuoid of pitty,
And being so shall haue like want of pitty.
See iustice done on *Aron* that damnd *Moore*,
By whome our heauy haps had their beginning:
Then afterwards to order well the state,
That like euents may ner'e it ruinate.

FINIS.

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Shakespeare, W.